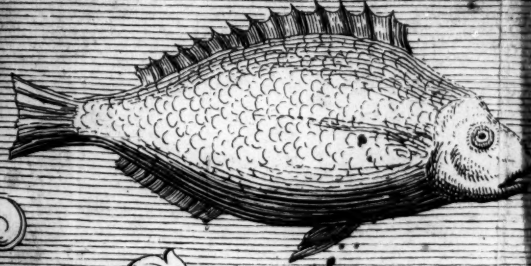
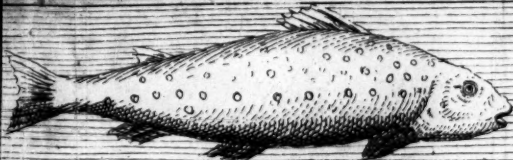


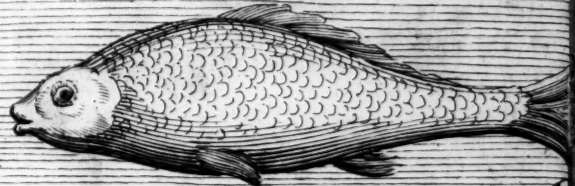
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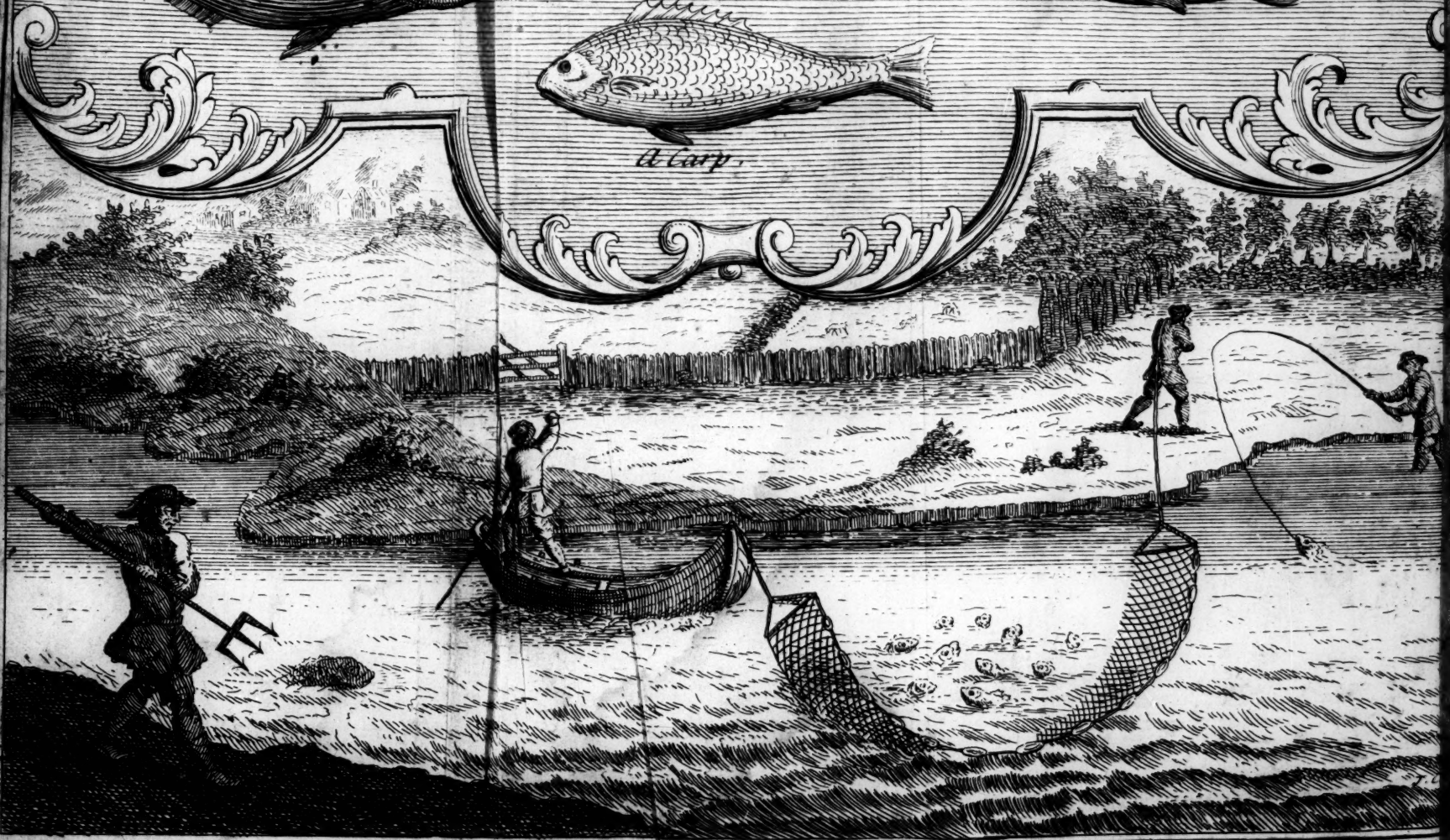
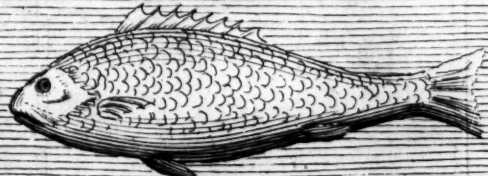
*a Trout.*



*a Pearch.*



*a Carp.*







THE  
Compleat FISHERMAN.

B E I N G

A Large and Particular Account, of all the several Ways of Fishing now practised in *Europe*; with abundance of curious Secrets and Niceties in the Art of FISHING, as well in the Sea, as in Lakes, Meers, Ponds, Rivers or Brooks; whether by Darts, Spears, Harpoons, Nets, Hook and Line, or any other way whatsoever.

More particularly calculated

For the SPORT of ANGLING.

W I T H

Directions for preparing the Angle Rods, Lines, Hooks, and Baits, proper for every part of the Sport respectively; and also for the *Angler's Conduct* in rightly applying them. Also, an Account of all the principal *Rivers, Lakes, &c.* in *England*; and what Kinds of Fish are more especially found in them.

---

Collected from the best AUTHORS,

And from the long Experience of

JAMES SAUNDERS, Esq; of *Newton-Awbery*,  
upon the River *Trent*.

---

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80 JUNE 1915



K. M. 18

# INTRODUCTION.



WE have seen a great many Attempts of this kind, made publick; namely, to instruct the Angler in the Niceties of his Sport, and yet hitherto we see our Sportsmen all at a loss, except it be here and there a Doctor, as we call them; viz. a Man that has drudg'd at it for twenty or thirty Years, by which time, he begins to be a compleat Master, much about the time that it may be said he shou'd leave it off.

The Sport of Angling, 'tis true, is the same, and the Pleasure of it never abates; but after sixty, much less at seventy, the Banks of the Rivers, the low Meadows and unwholsome Marshes, begin to be too damp, too aguish, too cold for the Gentlemen to sit close to their Sport, or to hold it too long at a time; so they begin to decline the old Tracks, and haunt the Barble Hole or the Trout Stream no longer, or at least but a little, and that in fine Weather.



## Introduction.

The antient Sportsmen thus by the Necessity of Constitution, and Infirmary of Age, dropping off from the Sport, the young Anglers are as destitute of good Directions, as ever, and so the Experience must be renew'd by the like Diligence as before.

This Tract therefore, brief and concise, and yet full and clear, is a Vade Mecum for a young Sportsman, and like a Map to a Traveller, or a Chart to a Mariner or Seaman, gives him a true Scheme of his Business, and will make him a compleat Master of his Sport, even before he comes to the Bank of the River.

In all the Rules here laid down, two things are strictly observed, namely, Order and Brevity: I have purposely avoided the tedious innumeration of particulars about Worms and Baits, and such Trifles, which renders former Works of this kind so unpleasant, as that to read it, would tire a Man more than angling five Hours without a Bait, and make the Angler be truly call'd patient.

It is enough to give a full Direction, and, so it do but prove full and plain, the smaller Compass it is brought into, the better; the Angler will know his Business, without serving Jacob's Apprenticeship to the Trade of it.

I have intermix'd with the Angler's Directions, an historical account of the Fisheries abroad, which make so considerable a figure in the  
article

## Introduction.

article of Merchandize, and enrich these northern parts, especially, to such a Degree; so that here the Merchant as well as the Angler, will be improv'd, if he pleases, in his knowledge of the Fishing Art.

This great branch of the World's Trade, requir'd a longer Tract by far, than this; but as what is said here, is more to improve the general knowledge of the thing, than to direct the practise, I have been the more concise in that part. 'Tis enough in this work to describe the Fisheries in general, and the manner of their managing them: There is not an equal necessity to direct the manner of the Fishermens working of their Nets in the open Sea; neither indeed is the thing so capable of particular Directions, the Contingencies of the Sea, the Currents, the Winds, the Climates, altering the case prodigiously. However, as I purpose to give a more full and particular Scheme of all the Fisheries in the known World, how, and in what manner they are carried on, that work will be too voluminous to be included in this, but they may be join'd hereafter.

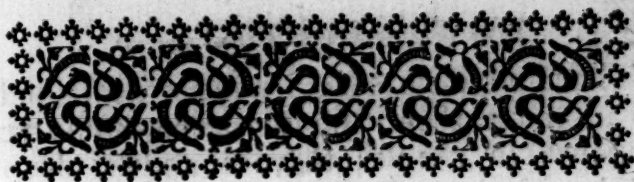
In the mean time, this work chiefly regards the fresh Water or River fishing, and more particularly that part of it which we rightly call Sport, viz. Angling; which as 'tis chiefly the diversion of the ingenious, so it must be acknowledged, that it is a most ingenious diver-

## Introduction.

tion, and qualified for the full exercise of our Wits, as well as our Hands. Nature has made the Creatures so sagacious, so wary, and so wily, that it calls for abundance of Art, and abundance of Patience, to circumvent them: Force is of no use in this War, for the Fish are so swift in their motions, so sharp sighted, so shy, and have such secure retreats, that they are out of reach in a moment: Nothing but stratagem can bring them to hand; and yet this is in some cases so sure to succeed, that it abundantly recompences the Angler, and infinitely pleases him. He thinks nothing of his long waiting wet, cold, and windy, even to the danger of his Health; one fair bite rouses all his Spirits, and makes him forget the many Hours that he has waited for it; and a Fish or two pull'd out, whose value when taken, bears no proportion to the time and pains, and expence of the Angler, makes him amends for all his toil; and with pleasure inexpressible, he triumphs in his little Success.

'Tis for the direction of these speculative Gentlemen, that this Book is principally design'd, and as they will find full directions, and some entirely new, for every part of the Art, I hope for their being as well pleas'd with the Book, as they are with their Sport.





T H E

Compleat Fisherman.

**O**F the various ways of catching Fish within the Compass which I am confin'd to in this Discourse, (*viz.*) Harpooning, fishing with Hook and Line onely; fishing with Nets; and fishing with Line Hook and Rod, which we call,

A N G L I N G.

As the Fish are Inhabitants of an Element which Man cannot live in, and that they have an unlimited Motion in the Water, either with or against the Currents, with innumerable Retreats whither they cannot be trac'd or pursued, 'tis evident they are to be taken only by Stratagem.

In the Rivers they retire to Pits and Holes, lie concealed under the Roots of Trees, or among the Weeds, are covered with hanging Clifs or Shores, and in a

B

Thou-

## 2      *The Compleat Fisherman.*

Thousand close Places whence no Hand can rouse them, no Creature come at them : In the Sea they fly to the deep Waters where they are quite out of reach, so that nothing is to be done but to allure them out of their Retreats, bringing them to Hand, and then by the Art of a cunning skilful Workman they are often surpriz'd and made Prisoners.

The several ordinary Ways of taking of Fish, whether in the Sea, or in Rivers or Ponds, may be reduced to the following,

1. By Harpoons and Spears, so they take Whales, Grampus's, Dolphins, Seals, and such other mighty Leviathans, as are found in the Ocean.
2. By Nets of all sorts, either in Seas, Rivers or Ponds.
3. By Hook and Line, without a Rod chiefly in the Sea.
4. By Angle Rod, with Hook and Line chiefly in Rivers and Ponds.

Some ways are esteemed extraordinary for the catching of Fish ; such are,

1. Lading or throwing out the Water from Pits, first separated from the rest

*The Compleat Fisherman.* 3

rest of the River or Stream by a Dam, so leaving the Fish destitute of Water, and to be taken out by Hand.

2. By dreyning or drawing off the Water, from Ponds, Moats and large parts of Rivers, and even turning the Stream where the Situation is proper.
  3. By Eel Spears, Trout Spears, and such like Instruments.
  4. By shooting the Fish, or haltering and snareing them, when they lie suaning themselves in the heat of the Day, near the Surface of the Water; this is chiefly practised upon Pike, Tench and Trout.
  5. By Pots or Weels, with a kind of Basket Work made of Wicker, and laid in the Bottom of the Water and fill'd with Bait, or at Mill Tails, Sluices, &c.
  6. By Weers and Sluices, and Chambers, and Pens made in the Rivers, chiefly for taking Salmon.
  7. By Tide Weares and Stops, where the Fish coming in with the Flood, are imprison'd by the Ebb of the
- B 2
- Water,



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Water, and left dry, the Sea falling from them.

*Cum Multis aliis, &c.*

1. *Of the several kinds of Fish usually caught in England, and how disposed when taken; whether for immediate Use, for Merchandize, or for Sport.*

Fish are chiefly caught for three several Occasions.

1. For Food and immediate spending.
2. For Merchandize.
3. For Sport.

1. The Fish for immediate Use, are such generally speaking, as are not ordinarily cur'd by drying, salting, pickling, or other Methods to make them fit to keep, and to be transported from one Countrey to another; these are, first such as are taken in the Sea or salt Water,

Turbett,  
Flook or Flounder,  
Plaice,  
Skate or Thornback,  
Soles,  
Smelts,

Whiteing,

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Whiteing, } These are sometimes  
Haddock, } dried and barrell'd,  
Mackrel. } but not in any Quantity.

Shadds,  
Lobsters,  
Crabbs,  
Shrimps and Prawns,  
Salmon Peal,

Shell Fish, as } Scallops,  
} Cockles,  
} Muscles,  
} Oysters.

Congers.

Such Fish as are taken in the Fresh Rivers, Lakes and Ponds, are chiefly,

Salmon,  
Trout,  
Grailing,  
Mullet,  
Pike,  
Carp,  
Tench,  
Eeles,  
Chub,  
Barble,  
Char,

Bream,  
Perch,  
Roach,  
Dare or Dase,  
Gudgeon,  
Bleak,  
Minnow,  
Loach,  
Crawfish,  
Lampreys,  
Ruffs or Popes.

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### 2. Of Fish taken for Merchandize.

Fish taken for Merchandize are of two Kinds, either 1. Such as being not fit for Food, are kill'd for the Fat, or Oil that is made of their Fat, or for the Fin or Fins, as they are improperly called by the *Dutch*, which is taken from them, and which we call also very improperly Whale Bone, or for their Skin; these are,

1. The Whale.
2. The Fin Fish.
3. The Porpus.
4. The Sword Fish.
5. The Seal, taken for the Skin, with which we cover Trunks, Portmantaus, &c. also for their Oil.

Or 2. Such as are kill'd to be cur'd for Food, and being preserv'd in order to be transported as Merchandize from one Place to another, are as we call it, good to eat; such as

White Fish, viz.	{	Cod,
		Ling,
		Haikfish,
		Whiting,
		Haddock.

Herrings,



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Herrings, { Cur'd by Smoke, and call'd  
Red Herrings.  
Cur'd by Salting only, cal-  
led Pickled Herrings.  
Cur'd by Salting and Pres-  
sing, called White Her-  
ring.

Pilchards, Cur'd both Ways as the  
White or Pickled Herring.

Salmon { Fresh sent up to *Lond.* by land.  
Split and dry'd in } These for  
the Sun, } Expor-  
Barrell'd and Sal- } tation.  
ted,  
Pickled or Sous'd; These  
sent to *London* only.

Sprats cur'd with Smoak, as Red Her-  
rings, only done at *Smole* in *Suffolk*.

Lampreys, { Pickled with Rich Spices,  
Char Fish, } and very high priz'd.

Sturgeon, Pickled and Barrell'd up,  
and brought to *England* chiefly from *Dant-  
zick*.

Anchovies, Pickled and imported here  
from *Leghorn*.

Oysters, Pickled chiefly at *Pool* in *Dor-  
setshire*, and exported from thence to ma-  
ny Parts.

Mackrael, Barrell'd and salted; but ve-  
ry few done, and only at *Yarmouth*.

*Of Fish taken for Sport.*

Fish taken for sport, are those which are mentioned above, taken in the Fresh Rivers, Lakes and Ponds, which as they are good for Food too, so they are the Diversion and delight of the Patient Angler, who often takes more Pleasure in the sport of Angling and catching the Fish, than in eating them when taken; tho' doubtless the first attempt of taking Fish by the Hook and the Line, with the Angle Rod, was for the Advantage of Food, and perhaps for necessity too, which might much quicken the Invention as well as the Application of the first Anglers; finding the Fish were, as is noted above, only to be taken by Stratagem, that is to say, by much Art, and great Application.

As the Principal Design of this Work is to Encourage and Direct the Angler in his Sport, and the Merchant in his Commerce; so I shall divide this Discourse into these two immediate Branches, as is already touch'd at above.

1. Fish catch'd for Merchandize.
2. Fish catch'd for Sport.

The

## *The Compleat Fisherman.* 9

The Ordinary fishing by Nets, Weers, Weels, &c. for the supply of our Markets with fresh Fish, are not included in these Heads, but shall however be spoken to by themselves: In the mean time the Merchant and the Sportsman are the Persons I shall entertain in the first Place, and endeavour to oblige them with the best Directions for Fishing, which long Experience, and conversing with others that have delighted in the Sport, has furnished me with.

And First, I must hint here, that there is a manifest Difference in fishing, (as I have call'd it) with Hook and Line, and Angling, which is fishing with Hook, Line, and Angle Rod.

Almost all large Fish that are catch'd in the Sea, and are for Merchandize, and are good for Food too, are taken with Hook and Line, such as the White Fish, Cod, Ling, Haick Fish, these are taken by Hooks fastned to small Lines of about three Foot long each, or less, and those again fastned to long Lines, ten or twenty to a long Line, which is let down into the Sea to the depth of seventy, eighty, ninety Fathom Water, as upon the Banks of *Newfoundland*, and the Coast of *New-England*.

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Whiting and Haddock are also taken in the same manner.

Only Herrings, Pilchards, Sprats, and Mackrel, as they are Merchandizing Fish are catch'd by Nets.

Even the Whales and those large Prodigious Creatures which are kill'd for their Oil, may be said to be taken by Hook and Line, for the Harpoon or Harping Iron is neither more or less than Hook and Line, only that it differs in the manner of using it;

In Angling the Hook is covered with a Bait, and only cast in the Way of the Fish, which the Fish takes ignorantly, but voluntarily into its Mouth, the Persons fishing being wholly couchant, and as it were passive till the Bait being taken in, the Hook takes place, and then they draw their Prey to their Hand.

But the Harpoon is a Dart flung into the Flesh of the Fish it is cast at, and by its bearded Points, taking fast hold, as effectually brings the Fish to Hand as the Hook does in the other case, with this Difference only : Namely, That the Harpoon being cast at infinitely greater Fish, the skilful Harponier more dexterously manages his Lines, which are large and heavy

*The Compleat Fisherman.* 11

heavy, has a certcin Number of Men and Boats to assist him, till by often vereing out, and artfully drawing in, as he sees Occasion, he at last masters even the mighty Whale it self, and brings him dead to the Ship Side. But still as above, this is all by Hook and Line, for it is no other.

There are two or three other Sorts of Fish which are taken for Sale, and brought into our Markets, but are neither taken by the ordinary Use of Nets, or by Hook and Line; these are Eccles, Oysters, and Lobsters.

Of the taking Eccles, I shall speak under the Head of Angling; but Oysters and Lobsters are taken in a different Manner from them, and indeed from all other Methods of Fishing: The first by a small strong Net at the End of a Pole or strong Rope, the Net made yet stronger with a Hoop of Iron, very thick and broad, with a sharp Edge, so that the Hoop of Iron lying slooping on the Water, the Net is either push'd before you if in shoal Water, or drawn after you with a Rope if in deep Water, till it fills it self with the Oysters, and this is call'd Dredging, and the Net a Dredge.

Lobsters are caught by Pots, as they are called, made of Wicker Work, and cast



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into the Sea, and which lie at the Bottom in which is put the Bait, as Weels are laid in Fresh Rivers for Eeles, those lie in six to ten Fathom Water, sometimes deeper, with large Buoys floating above them, and the Lobsters creep into them for Lucre of the Bait; for the Lobster swims not, or but very little, but crawls as the Crab, only not side ways, and was therefore wittily enough describ'd by the Author of *Polemnia Midinia*, in the following *Maceronick* Fragment.

*Lobster many-footis in Udis.*

Nor are the Inhabitants on the Sea, (the Coasts especially) destitute of the Sport of Fishing, as well as of the Profits of Fishing, any more than others within Land are, in the Rivers, for Example; at a certain Place in *America*, needless to name here, there is a Shoal at about half a League from the Shore, which at high Tide is about a Fathom and half under Water, especially at Spring Tides; but at low Water lies dry for about a Quarter of a Mile in Breadth, and near a Mile in Length; this Shoal is for the most part cover'd over with Oysters, and in some Places they lie very thick upon one another,

ther, as I am told, two Foot deep or more, all Oyſters; which however upon Storms or hard Gales of Wind, are often removed by the Surge of the Sea, and ſeparated this way or that way, and brought on again as the Wind blows on this or that Side of the Shoal.

The Fiſhermen that take Oyſters here, have nothing to do but when the Tide is out, to go on Shore and ſhovel them into their Boats, or into Baskets. But the Gentlemen and Ladies and ſuch as go for Diverſion, and meerly to eat Oyſters, do thus: They take a Parcel of Faggots and Billets, as much as they think convenient, with Chairs and Stools to ſit on, eſpecially if they have Women with them; then piling the Billets up artificially ſo that the Bottom ſhall not lie too wet, and a Buſh Faggot or two in the Middle, they ſet them on Fire, and when the Billets which make the ſtrongeſt Fire, burn thoroughly, they bring their Chairs and Stools as Benches for a Table, and ſitting round the Fire, they have nothing to do but take up the roasted Oyſters and eat them, for all round the Fire the Oyſters will roaſt as they lie, faſter than they can well beſtir themſelves to take them up.

When

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When they have done, the Servants and Boatmen come after; and they, sweeping the Fire and Ashes off from the rest, find as good a Roast under the Faggots, as the Gentlemen did before, round the Circumference. I must confess, I do not find a more diverting Way of catching Fish in the World, at least not of Oysters, which are generally taken for Food rather than Sport.

There is another Oyster Fishing practised in the World, and that is for catching of Pearl, but as that is very remote, (*viz.*) in the Gulph of *Persia*, at the Island of *Ceylon*, and other Places in the *East Indies*, where the best Oriental Pearl are found; as also at *China* and *Japan*, again at *St. John de Porto Rica*, at *Panama*, and at several Islands in those Seas, which I may speak of hereafter.

But to return to the Sea Coasts, there are great Numbers of People also, who divert themselves with Angling for Fish out of the Sea, *if I may call it so where they use no Rod*; and this they do thus:

1. They stand on the Shore, usually choosing a flat beachy Shore, and have a Line made of a small Rope like the Seamen's Log Line, at the End of which they have a large Plummet of Lead, of about a  
Quarter

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Quarter of a Pound or of Half a Pound Weight, according as the Artist finds the Strength of his own Arm for throwing it ; upon this Line they tie at equal Distances, and perhaps a Foot or a Foot and Half asunder, several small Lines, some Half a Yard long, some a Quarter of a Yard, more or less as they are near or remote from the End of the Line, every one of which short Lines has one Hook or more well baited.

Then they take the Plummet in their Hand, and throw it with all their Strength into the Sea, the Line lying coil'd up on the Shore in a large Coile, so that the Hooks shall not take hold of or tangle with one another, so that it follows the Plummet and lies strait out from the Shore into the Sea, perhaps fifty, sixty, or eighty Yards, as the Angler has Strength to throw it : If the Shore is very flat, and the Angler is very keen at his Sport, he will sometimes run forward ten or twenty Yards into the Sea, more or less as the Shore admits, before he delivers the Plummet, that he may throw it so much the farther into the Sea as for being wet up to the Knees, or perhaps higher ; he that fears wetting his Stockings, is no Man for the Sport, but should stay at Home  
and

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and only wait for some of the Fish that he would not take Pains to fish for.

When the Plummets is thrown full out, they seldom wait long, for as the Fish are feeding on the Shores in great Quantities, they presently fasten on the Bait, and the sooner they begin to draw, the surer they are of Sport, for the Fish will follow the Bait when they see it go from them, and thus sometimes I have seen the Sport so good that they shou'd draw in fifteen, twenty, or five and twenty good Whiting or Haddock, or young Codling at a Throw, and sometimes in the Season Mackrel and several other Sorts of Fish, according to the Time of the Year, and the Countrey they fish in.

This Sport I have seen more particularly follow'd upon the Coast of *Suffolk* and *Norfolk*, and also in the West of *England*, on the Coast of *Dorsetshire* and *Devonshire*, where the Methods are much the same, only that the Fish differ something in Kind; for on the Coast of *Suffolk* the Kinds of Fish chiefly catch'd, are Whitings, Haddock, and young Codling, so in the West they take Whiting and Mackrel, and sometimes flat Fish of several sorts, and not very rarely Pilchards.

The



*The Compleat Fisherman.* 17

The Baits generally used for these Hooks, are large Worms, if they are to be had, or the Flesh of any Carrion, or of Beef not salted, and tho' it stinks, it is not the worse; also the Flesh of Herrings or Pilchards cut small, and sometimes a bit of red Woollen Cloth dipt in melted Tallow or Oil, shall take as well as any thing, for the Fish are greedy, and bite sure, not like the fresh Fish in our Rivers and Ponds, which are so nice and difficult that they will pick and choose, and will not like this Bait or that, but nibble at it and go away.

Neither are they so cunning as to unhook the Bait with their Tails, and then take it, avoiding the Hook, as is fabled of the Barble.

I say fabled, for it is not to be prov'd that the Fish knows or suspects a Fraud, and that there is a Hook to surprize them under the Bait, which if they really did, they would not touch it at all, no nor come so near it as to try to unhook it, that they might take it without Hazard.

In some Parts of *Britain* they catch Plaice, Flounders, Soales, and large Flocks, that is to say young Turbets, which they call Turbet Flocks, with Hook and Line, and I have seen such Flounders so taken,  
weighing

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weighing three or four Pound each. The chief Bait they use for these, is the Shrimps, of which there are infinite Numbers, especially upon all the Northern Coasts of *Great Britain*.

In the *Firth* of *Forth*, and in the *Firth* of *Tay* in *Scotland*, I have seen another Exercise, which is not only very diverting, but profitable too, and that is, shooting of Fish; the Fish which they generally take thus, is the Porpus, of which as there is innumerable Numbers in those Places, so they swim along on the Surface of the Water, often shooting themselves out of the Water half the Body at a time, at which Moment, the skilful Marks Man fails not to lodge his Bullet in the Head of the Fish, which confounds him immediately, and they pursue them with a Boat, and as they die presently, so they are easily taken into the Boat or driven on Shore, and they boil great Quantities of Train Oil out of the Fat of them.

I shall come to speak of this sort of sport also among the fresh Fish, such as shooting Pike, Trout and Tench, as they lie sunning themselves in the heat of the Day, which they frequently do, but of that in its place.

They

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They sometimes kill Dolphins thus, by shooting, and sometimes the smaller sort of Fin Fish, which the common People mistake for young Whales; but they are of a very different kind from the Whale.

Having mentioned those little Fishings as a Sport, we are next to observe that all the vast Quantity of white Fish, which the *Spaniards* call *Baccaleo*, and which we call Codfish, which our Fishermen and the *French* catch in such Plenty upon the Banks of *Newfoundland*, as well as on the Coast of the *North Seas*, and of *New England*, and of which a thousand Ships Loadings a Year are caught by the *English, Dutch, and French*; all these are caught by Hook and Line, and that so swiftly, so nimbly, and in so deep Water, that it is admirable to consider it; so that the Ship's Crew only, shall be able to pull up enough to load the Ship, let it be of what bigness it will, as appears every Year by ocular demonstration.

But to go back to the Place where the chief of the Quantity of this Fish is caught, which is *Newfoundland*, there they fish them up frequently in Ninety or an Hundred Fathom Water, and bring up five or six together.

All

20      *The Compleat Fisherman.*

All other sorts of merchandising Fish are taken by Nets, as has been said, and the particular Description of the fishing for them, such as Salmon, Herrings, Pilchards, Sprats, and such small Fish, I say they are all taken with the Net, as is well known to the Undertakers of such Fishings, so are likewise ordinarily our fresh Fish, that is to say, Fish for the fresh Water Markets, such as Soals, Flounders, Plaice, and Smelts; of which an infinite number are taken every day on our Coasts, and sent up to that chief of all Fish-Markets *Bellinsgate.*

*Of the Particular Places where Fish are taken in England, whether for Merchandize, Market, or Sport, Whether in the Seas, the Lakes, or the Rivers.*

**H**AVING thus briefly mentioned the ordinary way of catching Fish in the Sea, either by Net, or by Line and Hook, either for Merchandize or Market, or for Sport and Diversion, I think it will not be amiss to speak a Word or two of the several particular Places eminent for taking the greatest Quantity of Fish, that  
is

*The Compleat Fisherman.* 21

is to say, in the Mouths of the Rivers, and on the Coasts of *England*, and what Counties and Markets are supplied with them; I mean such Fish principally as are called fresh Fish, and for present use, and especially to observe, how and from whence the City of *London*, which is now the greatest Fish-Market perhaps in the World, is supplied with Fish, and by what Conveyance.

First, For the kinds of Fish generally taken on the Sea Coasts of *England*.

To begin in the North Seas,  
White-fish, Cod, and Ling, are chiefly taken in the North Seas, and therefore our Barrel White-fish is called, North Sea Cod; which North Seas, may, as they relate to the fishing Trade only, be accounted from the Coast of *Cleavland* in *Yorkshire*, quite to *Iseland* in the Latitude of 64. But this is not properly reckoned among the fishing for present use, there are indeed, some large Cod taken in the Mouth of the *Thames*, and which are now more than ever, brought up to *London* for sale, as fresh Fish; and as some say, they are brought alive, where it is to be observed, that since several Projects were  
set



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set up for supplying the Markets of *London* with fresh Fish, and more reasonable than before, those large Cod are brought up to *Bellinsgate*, and sold ten Parts in twelve cheaper than they were before; this is chiefly owing to Sir *Richard Steel's* Project of the New Well-boats, or fishing Sloops, to bring all kinds of Fish alive to Market.

On the Coast of *Yorkshire*, and especially off of *Scarborough*, as from *Flambrough Head*, to the *Spurn*, South, and to *Hartle Pool*, *Stockton*, *Whitby*, North: They take the largest Turbet, some of which are so large, that at *Scarborough*, 'tis frequent to see Turbet weighing near an Hundred Pounds weight each.

On the Coast of *Norfolk* and *Suffolk*, and especially among the Sands and Shoals off of *Yarmouth*, are taken the greatest Quantity of Herring, by which all the County is supply'd with them fresh at their Markets, besides the infinite Number which are cured there by Smoke, and made what we call Red Herring.

At *Swole* or *Southwold*, a Town on the Coast of *Suffolk*, about eighteen Mile South of *Yarmouth*, they have a Trade which is particular to themselves, viz. of making  
Red

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Red Sprats, which they cure by Smoke as they do the Herrings at *Yarmouth*.

From *Yarmouth* South to the Mouth of the *Thames*, and from thence again West thro' the *Channel* as far as *Rye*, is the general fishing for *London* Market, for Herring, Sprats, Codfish and Mackrel; the Mackrel are first taken off of *Rye* for the Gross Quantity of them come from the West, when they are first taken here, they are sent up to *London* by Horse Carriage, of which I shall speak at Large in its Place; they are also carried thus to *London* from *Hastings*, and sometimes from *Hith* and *Folkstone* in *Kent*.

I should mention here the fishing in the River *Orwell*, that is the Haven and River that comes into it at *Harwich*, because this does not belong to the fishing in the Mouth of the *Thames*, or is any part of the Fish caught here sent to *London*, except sometimes the Fishermen happen to catch some extraordinary large Fish, or have a more than ordinary Quantity and that they hear there is a Scarcity at *London*, then they hurry up by Horses, as at *Rye* and other Places.

The Oysters of this place are so eminent for the particular Taste, which is so grateful to the Palate, that tho' they do  
not

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not, as I find, send any or not many to *London*; yet the Inhabitants boast that *Nero* the Roman Emperor, had his Table furnished with Oysters from this River, but this I do not take upon me to prove, let the People of *Ipswich* answer for the Truth of it.

When the Mackrel come on in greater Quantities, they are taken off of *Dover* and the *South Foreland*, as also on the Back of the *Goodwin*, and in the Strait between *Dover* and *France*; and then the fishing Smacks from *London* and *Barking* go down and buy them of the *Folkstone* and *Ramsgate* Fishermen, taking them in at Sea as soon as caught, after which, crowding to *London* Market with them, the Quantity is so great, that the Horse Carriage ceases.

Exactly the like Trade is from *Rye*, *Hastings*, &c. at the first of the Herrings, which are brought on Horseback; but this is not so considerable, because the Herrings come as well from the North as the West, and sooner appear in Shoals in the Mouth of the River of *Thames*.

As these Fish are taken at *Rye*, and brought to *London* in their Season, so there is a constant Land-Carriage for other fresh Fish from *Rye* all the Year long, the Fish they bring are generally large Soals, Flounders

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Flounders and Plaice, some Turbet and Whitings; and they have numbers of Horfes for this Carriage laid on the Road to relieve one another, constantly kept going and coming; and as they run Night and Day, the Fish are brought to the *London* Fishmongers very fresh and good, and some of them alive.

By this Method, and likewise from the same Port of *Rye*, the Market at *Tunbridge*, all the while the Concourse of Nobility and Gentry are there, is supplied with Fish, which if we may believe common Fame, is often times brought so swiftly, that the Fish may be in the Sea and on the Table ready cook'd and fit to eat in six Hours time.

Westward from hence, a very great Quantity of excellent Fish is caught on the Coast, and in the great Inlets of the the Sea, which lie between *Selsey*, *Thorn Island*, *Langstone Water*, *Emsworth Water*, and other Places; the whole Shore being full of large Inlets and Creeks, all monstrously full of Fish, as is all that Coast quite away West to *St. Helens*, and the Inside of the Isle of *Wight*; The fishing here is so exceeding great, and the Fish of such various and excellent kinds, that it is said there are (generally speaking) near

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Three thousand good able Seamen employed in it, and by this fishing it is, that so many great Markets are plentifully supplied with Fish on that Side, as is not to be seen in any particular place in *England*, *London* excepted, and particularly the Markets of

<i>Chichester,</i>	}	<i>in Sussex.</i>
<i>Lewis,</i>		
<i>Petworth,</i>		
<i>Midhurst,</i>		
<i>Guildford</i>	}	<i>in Surrey.</i>
<i>Portsmouth,</i>		
<i>Gosport,</i>	}	<i>in Hampshire.</i>
<i>Petersfield,</i>		
<i>Farnham,</i>		
<i>Southampton,</i>		
<i>Winchester,</i>		

Besides a great many smaller Markets, but the Markets of *Lewis*, *Chichester*, *Portsmouth* and *Southampton*, are very great Fish Markets, and have the greatest Quantity of Fish sold in them of most Towns of their Size in *England*.

To begin at *Chichester* ; from hence, that is to say, from the Sea Coast on that side, they have the following Kinds of Fish :

1. *Selsey,*



1. From *Selfey*, a large Creek or Inlet, they had formerly the best Cockles, and therefore the Fish Cryers in *London* to this Day, when they cry Cockles, call them *Selfey* Cockles; they still have very good Cockles there, but not so great a Quantity as formerly.

2. At the Mouth of this Creek, and in the Creek it self, as also in *Chichester* Water *Emsworth*, and all the way to the Isle of *Wight*, they take so prodigious a Quantity of Oysters, that they are not only sold excessively cheap in the Markets (sometimes at two Pence a Hundred) But many Vessels laden with Oysters have been sent from hence to *Weevenhoe* near *Colchester*, to supply the Pits there, where when they are fed and made fat, they are sent up to *London*, in Barrels, for *Colchester* Oysters; also great Quantities of Oysters are sent from hence to *Havre de Grace*, *Diep*, and *Roan* in *France*, and from thence carried to *Paris*, to be sold there, where they want no Price.

N. B. A New Trade is lately set up of bringing Oysters over from *Jersey*, but it does not promise them success, and it is also earnestly endeavoured to prohibit it,

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that it may not discourage our Fisheries, which are the best Nurseries of our Seamen.

From *Chichester* are brought to *London* by Horse Carriage, a great Quantity of Lobsters, which tho' small in size, are esteemed as the sweetest and best tasted, and consequently the nicest Lobsters in *England*.

From hence are brought to *London*, a small kind of Salmon, call'd in the West of *England* Sammon Peal, they are generally about eighteen to twenty Inches long, weigh from two to four Pound each, are bought in the Markets from twelve Pence to sixteen Pence each, and are often sold in the Fishmongers Shops in *London* at half a Crown or three Shillings per Pound; they out do all the Trout Salmon in *England*, and even the Salmon it self in the niceness of their Flesh, and in the fine Flavour it has on the Palate.

From hence also they bring large Mulletts, but these chiefly come from *Arundel*, which is twelve Miles off.

Here, as at *Portsmouth* and *Southampton*, and all the Towns within the great Bay of the Isle of *Wight*, are caught an infinite number of flat Fish of all kinds, but especially Turbet, Plaice, Buts, Flounders, and

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and Soals, and of the last some very large, also Maids or Thornbacks, call'd also Scate, with the biggest and best Crabs in *Britain*, also Whiting and Haddock innumerable.

When the Court is at *Windsor*, at least for any continuance, great Quantities of Fish is often sent from *Hampton* and *Portsmouth* by Horse Carriage, to *Windsor*, and brought thither very fresh and good, especially when the Weather is not excessive Hot; and when this happens, I mean when the Court is thus at *Windsor*, then all the Markets near the Road between *Portsmouth* and *Windsor* are supplied with Fish also, such as *Basingstoke*, *Oakingham*, *Farnham*, *Reading*, &c.

They have in the season in these Ports also, prodigious Quantities of Mackrael and Herrings, so that they are frequently not worth bringing on Shore; but of that I shall speak more particularly when I come to speak of the fishing farther West.

When the great Fleets of Merchantmen, during the late War, have Rendezvous'd here at *Portsmouth*, and the Royal Navy also, or large Squadrons here, and number of Soldiers on Shore also; I have been told that a greater Quantity of Fish has been consum'd here for some small time than *London* it self carried off.

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In some of the Towns on this Coast, they have also practised the curing Herrings by Smoke, that is to say, making Red Herrings, as at *Yarmouth*, but not in so great Quantities; this also has been done at *Dover*, and *Folkston*, and *Hastings*, and is still, when that fishing is very plentiful, otherwise not.

Leaving the Isle of *Wight*, and going on Westward, we come to *Pool* on the Coast of *Dorchester*, and here they catch a vast Quantity of Oysters, which as they are too large for the common Eating, and too remote for any considerable Market, they Pickle them, Barrel them up, and sell them not only in *England*, especially at *Bath* and *Bristol*, but also send great Quantities of them to *France* and *Spain*.

From this Town, but more especially from *Weymouth*, which is the next Port Westward, the *Bath* is supplied with Fish in the Bathing Seasons when Company gather there; and tho' it is not much less than fifty Miles, yet the Fish is brought thither in very good Condition, and great Quantity, nor is the Price much to be complain'd of: The Kinds of Fish usually sent thither are the same as above, such as Flounders, Plaice, Turbets, Whittings, Haddock, and Smelts;

as

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is for Salmon that comes to the *Bath* another way, as I shall observe in its place.

In this long Carriage of Fish they have several large populous Market Towns where they find a large vent for Fish, and which they supply at the same time; and tho' they do not stop the Horses which are intended for the *Bath*, for that would injure the Fish, yet by the Quantity they sell at those Towns, they are the better able to sell the rest cheap at the *Bath*, which is the farthest Town: The most considerable of the Towns in their Rout, or near it, and which they sell their Fish at, are these *Dorchester, Blandford, Sherborn, Warminster, Bradford, Troubridge, Devizes, and Froom*, the last of which, as it is now lately increased, and flourishing by Trade in an extraordinary manner, is more populous than the *Bath* it self.

The Seas on this Coast, all the Way from *Weymouth*, round the Isle of *Portland*, and especially on the back of that Island, as 'tis call'd; that is to say, West towards *Abots Bury, Bridport, and Lime*, and beyond *Lime* till we come almost to *Torbay*, are sometimes so covered with Mackrel, that the Magistrates of the Towns, and Justices of the Countrey, have been oblig'd to keep



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Guards or Watch on the Shores Night and Day, to prevent the Farmers fetching them from the Fishermen by Cart-loads, to Dung the Land with them; and which the Inhabitants are very uneasy at, when it is so, lest it should infect the Air with the stench of the Fish, and this Year, and even while these Sheets are writing, they write from *Weymouth*, that they have been sold four hundred large fat Mackrel, fresh and wholesome, and just taken out of the Sea; I say four hundred for a Penny, and other Letters writing of the Quantity of Mackrel, on the Coast of *Dorsetshire*, which is the same as mentioned above, say they are sold at six Pence a Cart Load, others say that the Fishermen take such unusual Quantities that their Nets would break if they should attempt to draw them up into their Boats, and that they care not to take them at all, but turn them out of their Nets again into the Sea, picking out the other Fish from them if they can, and if not, let all go together, rather than be cumbred with the Mackrel, the Quantity of which is too great for the Market.

If indeed the Mackrel were a merchantable Fish, and cou'd be cur'd or barrell'd up for Sale, and for Exportation, which they

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they are not, that is to say not in any great Quantity, there would then be no Complaint of this kind; but as it is, they are really a Grievance, and the Fishermen, tho' not very properly, call it the Mackrel Plague, because they suppose that the Mackrel either devour the other Fish, or at least drivethem away from the Shore by their Quantity; the latter may be true; but we do not find that the Mackrel, tho' a very greedy voracious Fish, devours any other Fish, but that they feed upon little Water Insects, Snails, Perewinkles, Shrimps, and other very small Sea Creatures, which they find upon the Sands and Shoals where they feed.

There is an ordinary way of fishing for Mackrel on this Coast, by which tho' they cou'd not at other times be suppos'd to catch any great Quantity, yet when they are so exceeding plentiful, they take sufficient for the Countrey Supply: The Manner is thus, according to the Plan here given; two Men being appointed to each Net, one Man stands fast on the Shore, holding a long Pole, or suppose a Boat Hook Staff, which he fixes at the Bottom as fast in the Sand as he can, as at [A.] holding the upper part in his Hand, as at [B.] to this Staff is fixt a Line at [C.]

C 5

which

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which holds one End of the Net [*D.*] the other Man is in a Boat with the Net, and rowing directly out into the Sea, veres out the Net at the Stern of the Boat [*E.*] when he has row'd out so far as to the Extent of his Net, he turns and rows away to the Right or Left, as they agree, and so rows for some time. Suppose West Parallel with the Shore [*E.*] towing the Net by another Line fasten'd at one End to the Net, and at the other End to one of the Thouts or Seats of the Boat, thus he draws the Net as far as its Length will reach, and then turning again to the Right, he rows in directly to the Shore.

As soon as his Boat is a Ground, he steps over Board into the Sea, and taking the Line in his Hand, draws the Net as at [*G.*] to the dry Land, then giving the Signal to the first Man at [*A.*] they both draw in the Net, and so bring the Fish all on Shore in the Middle; and in this Manner I have seen them bring on Shore three or four Hundred Fish of all sorts at a time, sometimes more, all which is done in a Quarter of an Hour, and then out again as before. And here the Countrey People and Higglers come down with Horses and Baskets as at [*H.*] and buy them just as they are taken out of the Sea, and the  
the

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the Fishermen care not to put out with their Nets till they see the Horses coming, and then while the Horses are at a Distance, as the Work is soon done, they go to their Boat and are ready with the Fish by the time that the Countrey Folks are come.

There is a Method of surrounding the Fish, not exactly in this Manner, but more considerable, which is practised on this Shore farther West, and more particularly in the taking of Pilchards: The Pilchard is a Fish a little less than the Herring, the Flesh of a sound and more substantial Substance, and very good; they swim in great Shoals or SCOELS, as the *West Countrey Men* call it, together, and are therefore taken in this Manner: viz. When the Merchants have their Tackle all ready, and Vessels placed in proper Places, they set a Man upon the Top of the Rocks, or on some high Hill near the Sea, to look out, this Man, they call a *Huer*, who being experienced in the Business, may easily see by the rippling of the Water, and the particular Motion of the Surface of the Sea, when a SCOEL of Fish are coming on, and which way they go, and accordingly he makes Signals to the Vessels prepar'd, who immediately weigh and stand off to Sea,

C 6

several

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several differing and perhaps contrary Ways, till they get behind the Fish, and then follow them as it were, pushing them on towards the Shore, and the Fish seeing the Boats, will go forward, as if flying to escape or avoid them, by which Means they at Length embay the whole Shoal or SCHOOL between the Vessels and the Shore, and then spreading their Nets, they sometimes take as I may say, the whole Quantity.

It frequently happens, that they take two or three or four Hundred Tun of Fish at a time, that is to say, not at one Hale, but before they leave them; for the Fish as if bewildred and surpriz'd, do not bestir themselves much to attempt their Escape, but in a kind of Confusion swimming some this way some that, among one another, they lie near the Surface as in doubt, till they are swallow'd up by the Fishing Nets as above, and carried almost all away.

Having thus given a short View of the ordinary and extraordinary fishing upon the North and West Seas of *Great Britain*, which tho' respecting the Course of the Seas, they are call'd as above the North Sea and West Sea, yet respecting the Situation of the Land are to *Great Britain*, and should be so call'd the East and South Seas,



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Seas, or if you will the East and the South Coast, for so indeed they lie: Having I say given an Account of the Fishing on these Coasts, it remains to speak only of the *Irish* and *Welsh* Seas, that is to say, the *Severn Sea*, vulgarly call'd the *Bristol Channel*, and the Sea between *England* and *Ireland*, call'd *St. George's Channel*.

And this as the Fish found here are chiefly Herrings and Salmon, I shall refer to a Chapter by it self.

I come now to speak of the River Fishing in *England*, and even this also leads me to speak of it in two Capacities.

1. The fishing in large navigable Rivers, and near their Influx into the Sea, where the Fishing is carried on, little differing from that in the Sea, and where the kinds of Fish are much the same.

2. The fishing in the small Rivers, or the smaller inland part of the large Rivers above; as also in smaller secondary Rivers and Brooks, which have no immediate Communication with the Sea, only as they run into other Rivers which do run into the Sea: And this last part will bring me to speak of fishing in Lakes and Ponds, and all inland Waters, and consequently to the right noble Sport of *ANGLING*, which  
is

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is the most important Part of this Work.

In order to discourse of both these, as well that which I call Salt River fishing, and Tide fishing, as the other which I call Angling, 'tis necessary I should give a brief geographical Description of the Coast of *Great Britain*, so far only as it may guide the Reader to know where the Rivers I may have occasion to mention lie, what Course they run, where they empty themselves into the Sea, and what smaller Streams they take in, in their Course.

1. The *Thames*, the greatest and chiefest of all the Rivers of *Great Britain*, is not only for Navigation and Commerce the Queen of Rivers in this Island, but is also for prodigious Quantity of Fish, the Variety of Sorts, and the Goodness of the Kinds, preferable to all the other Rivers in *Britain*.

It is true there are some few Sorts of Fish in other Places and Rivers in *Great Britain*, which are not found in the River of *Thames*, but I must say they are but few, such as the Char, the Mullet, the Grailing, the Umber, which some say is but a smaller Grailing, the Salmon, Smelt, and

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and the Lampern or Lamprey ; but these are but a few, considering the prodigious Quantity of Fish that are found in the *Thames*.

The *Thames* rises in the *Cotswoulds*, or *Cotswold Hills* in *Gloucestershire*, and meeting with several Rivers larger than it self, in the same part of the Countrey, grows big enough to be navigable at *Cricklade* and *Lechlade*, on the Edge of the same County, and running from thence thro' *Oxford*, *Wilts*, *Berks*, *Bucks*, *Surrey*, *Middlesex*, and between *Kent* and *Effex*, empties into the Sea at a Mouth of twenty two Leagues wide, the Mouth of the *Thames* being reckoned between the *Nase* in *Effex*, and the *North Foreland* in *Kent* ; in which Course it receives of large Rivers besides others smaller, the *Windrush*, the *Evenlode*, the *Charwell*, and the *Tame*, out of *Oxfordshire* ; the *Oke*, *Kennet*,\* and *Loddon*, out of *Berkshire* ; the *Coln*, out of *Buckinghamshire* ; the *Wey*,\* and the *Mole*, and the *Wandall*, out of *Surrey* ; the *Brent*, and the *Lea*,\* from *Middlesex* ; the *Rodel*,\* the *Crouch*,\* the *Chelmer*,\* the *Blackwater*, and the *Coln*,\* from *Effex* ; and the *Ravensborn*,\* *Dart*,\* and *Medway*,\* from *Kent*.

N. B. All those mark'd thus, \* are navigable Rivers.

2. The *Severn*, which is equal to the *Thames* in Greatness, tho' not navigable to so great a City as *London* rises in *Wales*; it receives more great Rivers than the *Thames*, and is it self navigable a greater Length within the Land, but does not match the *Thames* for the Quantity or Variety of Fish. It receives after it enters *England* besides lesser Rivers, the *Tarne*, and the *Warron*, out of *Shropshire*; the *Stour*, and the *Avon*, the last a fine navigable River and full of Fish, out of *Worcestershire*; the *Temd*, out of *Montgomery Shire*; and the *Wye*, out of *Monmouth Shire* and *Hereford Shire*, the last almost as large a River as the *Severn*; and yet in none of these are there found the Quantity of Fish like what is in the *Thames*, except of Salmon; in which they may perhaps out do it, I mean putting the *Severn* and the *Wye* together, indeed the other *Avon* which comes out of *Wiltshire*, and runs by the *Bath* and *Bristol*, should be reckon'd as running into the *Severn*, because it does enter the *Severn Sea*, and may as properly be said to empty it self into the *Severn*, as the

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the *Medway* is said to run into the *Thames*; but neither is the *Avon* a River famous for Fish, the fierce Tides which they call the *BORE*, or according to Mr. *Cambden*, the *HYGRE*, being such that they keep the Stream always muddy and foul as far as they reach, so that all the Fish that covet clear streams seek for the higher part of the Rivers, where the Water is undisturb'd, where yet the River's being small, the Quantity of Fish of course must abate.

3. The *Humber*, I am content to call this a River, tho' it be really an Arm of the Sea, a *Firth*, or *Æstuarium*, as the *Latins* call it, receiving a great number of very large Rivers into its Bosom, and as it were conducting them altogether into the Sea; the Rivers which empty themselves and their supplimental Waters into this Gulph call'd the *Humber*, being very large, and very many, and such as I shall have occasion to mention again very frequently, will be seen in the following Plan.

The



The River <i>Humber</i> receives into its Gulph,	The	{	<i>Hull</i> and <i>Darwent</i> ,	}	From the East Riding	of <i>Yorkshire</i> .		
	The <i>Ouse</i> , and there- with the	{	<i>Swale</i> , <i>Eure</i> ,		From the North Riding			
		{	<i>Nid</i> , <i>Wherf</i> , <i>Aire</i> , <i>Calder</i> ,		From the West Riding			
	The <i>Trent</i> , and therewith the	{	<i>Went</i> , <i>Down</i> , <i>Rother</i> , <i>Sow</i> , <i>Penk</i> ,		from <i>Staffordshire</i> .			
The	The	{	<i>Tame</i> , <i>Soar</i> from <i>Leicestershire</i> . <i>Dove</i> , <i>Derwent</i> ,		from <i>Derbyshire</i> .			
The	The	{	<i>Idle</i> , from <i>Nottinghamshire</i> . <i>Ankam</i>		from <i>Lincolnshire</i> .			
[ <i>Foesdyke</i> ,		}						

These are the three greatest Outlets of Rivers, and inlets of the Sea, that are in that part of *Great Britain* called *England*: There are a few other which may be called second Rates, and which but to mention, will take in almost all the Rivers of Note in *England*, for Example,

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Lynn Deep being a Gulph of the Sea, on the Shore of the Isle of Ely, receives the Rivers of

{ *Wisham*, by *Boston*, } From *Lin-*  
*Welland*, by *Stamford*, } *colnshire*,  
*Glean*, by *Spalding*, }

When these Rivers reach into the Fens, they are all full of Tench, so large, that no place in *England* produces the like; it is ordinary to find Tench in *Whittlesea Meer*, and in the *Welland* above *Spalding*, and in the *Ouse* of four or five Pound Weight; the *Neyn* yields a Fish like a Roach, but much better tasted, with red Fins and Tail, called Red Tail; and very large Bream; also the largest and fattest Pikes that are in *England*, in the long Dreyn from *Peterborough* to *Wisbich*, also here are Pearch sixteen Inches long.

*Nyne*, or *Neen*, by *Wisbich* from *Northamptonshire*.

{ *Ivel* from *Bedfordshire*.  
*Grant* from *Cambridgeshire*.  
*Mildenhall* from *Suffolk*.  
*Little Ouse* from *Norfolk*.  
*Whittlesey* from *Whittlesey Meer*, by Dreins thro' the Fens.

{ *Lynn* from *Norfolk*.

*Yar-*

Yarmouth Peir or Haven, in Norfolk, receives the

Yare, } all from *Norfolk*, and which  
 Waveney, } bring with them almost  
 Thyrn, } all the Waters of the  
 County of *Norfolk*. In the River  
 Yare is the Fish call'd the *Ruff*, which  
 is found in no other River in *Eng-  
 land*; 'tis call'd in *Latin* *Aspredo*;  
 the Body of it is all over rough;  
 'tis full of sharp prickly Fins in the  
 proper Places of Fins, and is in  
 Shape and Size much like a *Pearch*;  
 it is dark brown on the Back, and a  
 pale yellow on the Belly; along  
 the Jaw it is mark'd with a double  
 semicircular Line, the upper Half  
 of the Eye is a dark brown like the  
 Back, the under Half is yellow like  
 the Belly, and the Eye Ball is Cole  
 black; 'tis particularly remarkable  
 for a Line drawn along the Back  
 like a Thread tied upon the Body;  
 the Tail and Fins are all over spot-  
 ted with black. When 'tis provo-  
 ked the Fins strut and bristle up,  
 as the *Pearches* do, on its Back;  
 when it is easy they lie flat and  
 close: It eats like a *Pearch*, and is  
 particularly valued for pleasant  
 Taste, and being nourishing and  
 very wholesome.

On

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On the Irish Seas, are Soleway, Firth, and Cockermouth, which receive the

{ Kirkcuborp, } all from Scotland. All  
 { Esk, } these Scottish Rivers  
 { White, } are full of Salmon,  
 { Leven, and } and of Trouts.  
 { Blackleven, }

Eden, and therewith { Cambeck, } all emi-  
 { Troutbeck, } nent  
 { Irthing, } for Sal-  
 { Peterell, } mon  
 { Eimot, or Ulleswater, } fishing,  
 { Caude, } and so  
 { Wampul, } are all  
 { Lawther, or Loder, } the Ri-  
 vers in Cumberland.

N. B. The Quantity of Salmon here is so great, and the Fish so cheap, and which is more, the Price at London so great, that they now send fresh Salmon up to London by Horses, which go Night and Day, and drive so hard, that they have it in London in two Days and two Nights, out driving the Post; and tho' they kill a great many Horses, yet they find it turn to Account very well, and the Fish is brought up very sweet and good.

{ Derwent and Thurlymere.

The

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The Shore of Lancashire and Cheshire having several Inlets of the Sea, receives the

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{	Ken, or Can,	}	from West-
	Duddon,	}	moreland.
	Thuston, or Conningston,	}	In this Wi-
	Winander Meer,	}	nander

Meer is found the Char-fish, so famous all over England, and even in Spain and Italy; 'tis found no where else, except in Conningston Meer in Lancashire, and there but a few, and as is reported in ----- Lake in Swisserland, but their kind is not so good as in England.

{	Lune,	{	all from Lanca-	
	Coker,			
	Wire,			
	Ribble, and			
{	with it	Darwen,	{	shire. These Ri-
		Calder,		
		Yarrow,		
		Douglafs,		
{	Mersey,	Tame,	{	vers, especially
		Roch,		
		Erwell,		
		Goyt,		
		Irke,		

they are not sent for London, those at Carlisle being much cheaper and generally larger Fish, tho' not better tasted.

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The Shore of *Lancashire*, and  
*Cheshire*, receives more

The *Irke* near *Manchester*, famous for *Eels*, the largest and the best in *Britain*.

*Weaver*, { *Rever*, } from *Cheshire*.  
                  { *Dane*, }

Here are good *Salmon* too, but not a great Quantity.

*Dee*, and { *Allen*, } from *Wales*. The  
with it the { *Keroig*, } *Dee* breeds excellent  
                  { *Alwen*, } *Salmon*,  
                  { *Kelhen*, } and the four  
others the best *Trouts* in all that part of the Countrey.

*Harwich Haven* receives the Rivers

{ *Orwell*, } from *Suffolk*, the last emptying a little without the Haven by *Woodbridge*.

*Stour*, { from *Suffolk* and *Essex*, these  
*Berton*, } are all slow and deep Rivers, and full of *Carp*, *Tench*, *Pike*, *Pearch*, and *Eeles*, but no *Salmon* or *Trout*, or but very few.

The

The Rivers running into the Sea North of *Humber*, are the

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*Tees*, at *Stockton*, from North Riding on the Edge of *Cumberland*. Very little Fish, except Salmon, in this River, the Stream is so very rapid, and even so furious, that in the Summer often almost dry; but in Pits and deep Places are good Salmon and some Trout.

*Wear*, from *Durham*, runs into the Sea at *Sunderland*. Abundance of very good Salmon in this River.

*Tyne*, { *South Tyne*, from *Cumberland*, } by *Newcastle*, at *Timmouth*.  
          { *North Tyne*, from the Edge of *Scotland*, }

Good Salmon in the *Tyne*, but the Quantity much abated.

*Blish*, the *Cocquet*, and the *Wenbeck*, from *Morpeth*. The last full of Salmon, but little other Fish.

The Rivers running into the Sea North of *Humber*, are the

*Ayle*, from *Almwyck*, at *Aylemouth*.

*Tweed*, from *Tweedale* in *Scotland*, at *Berwick*. The *Tweed* is the fullest of Salmon of any River in *England*, a prodigious Quantity being catch'd there every Season, almost all the pickled Salmon which is brought to *London*, and call'd *Newcastle* Salmon, is taken in the *Tweed*, and carry'd to *North Shields* by Land, where it is cur'd and pickled, and made up in Keggs for *London*, and so is call'd *Newcastle* Salmon, because the *Newcastle* Coal Ships bring it up.

*Till*, entering the *Tweed* at *Tilmouth*.

The

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The Harbours and Inlets in the West of England, as of *Hampson, Christ Church,*  
and *Pool*, receives the Rivers of

*Devon.*

*Alre,* } from *Winchester.*  
*Irbin,* }  
*Teisch,* from *Stockbridge.* } all Trout Rivers.  
*Avon,* and there. } *Willybourn,* } from *Wiltshire* and }  
 with the } *Adderbourn,* } *Salisbury.* } all Trout Rivers, and  
*Stour,* from *Dorsetshire,* by *Blandford.* } rapid.  
*Froom,* from *Dorsetshire,* by *Dorchester* and *Wareham,* full of Trouts, and  
*Piddle,* } some Salmon, but with other small Fish also, as good Pikes and  
 Perch.

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Devonshire and Cornwall having Shores both to the South and to the North, that is to say into the British Channel and the Bristol Channel, receives the Rivers following,

In the South Channel the

{ Ax, } all in Devonshire, and all  
 { Otter, } Salmon Rivers  
 { Ex, } especially the  
 { Tinta, } Ex, Dart, and  
 { Dart, } Tamar, and the  
 { Tamar, } Salmon in the Ex and  
 Tamar are very fat, but  
 not so very large as in  
 the North of England.

{ Fawey, or Foy, } all in  
 { Loo, } Corn-  
 { Lever, } wall,  
 { Milford Haven, } full of  
 Fish, but not so much

Salmon as in Devonshire, the Rivers not being of so long a Course.

In the North Channel,

{ Allan, or Camell, in Cornwall.

{ Tau, }  
 { Towridge, } Devonshire.

{ Okement, }

{ Tone, } Somersetshire, Perat Ri-  
 { Perrat, } ver and Ivel are so  
 { Brius, or Brus, } full of Pikes, that  
 { Ivel, } they devour almost  
 all other Fish.

Thus you have an Account of all the considerable Rivers in England, the Coun-  
 D 2

trey



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tries whence they come or spring, and where they fall into the Sea ; I shall now speak something of the fishing part among them all, and shall take Notice where there are any particular Fish, or manner of fishing, as there is in several Rivers, and make just Remarks upon them, to the main Purpose of this Work ; viz. to direct to the fishing in them, as Occasion may offer.

Before I enter into the Particular of this kind, 'tis necessary to observe, that tho' there are several fresh Rivers which have a peculiar kind of Fish to themselves, as some are Trout Rivers, some Salmon Rivers, &c. as also the waste Gulphs and Inlets of the Sea, the Mouths of Rivers, are remarkable some for Oysters, some for Lobsters, some for Smelts, others for Turbet, some for Pilchards, some Herrings, some Mackrel, yet there are some small Fish common to all fresh Rivers and Brooks, likewise of the Sea, some Shores have those and some these sorts of Fish, but still there are some Fish that are common to all Shores and Mouths of Rivers.

Thus the Whiting, Flounder or Flook, the Plaice, and Haddock, are to be had almost on all the Shores and Coasts of *England* and *Scotland* ; whereas there are no  
Mackrel

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Mackrel in the North, no Pilchards on the East Shores, no Lobsters in *St. George's Channel*, no Oysters from *Yarmouth*, or for twenty Miles on this side, till the *Firth of Edinburgh*, or but very few, no Sprats in *Scotland*, and the like.

So the Roach and Dace, Pearch and Gudgeon, Minnow, Pike, and Eeles, are almost every where, but there are many large Rivers where there are no Salmon, others that have no Trout, others no Mulletts, others no Carp or Tench, others no Barble.

The Grailing is peculiar to the *Dove* in *Darbyshire*.

The Char to the *Windermeer*, and *Conningston Meer*, in *Westmoreland*, and *Lancashire*.

The Mullet to the *Arrun* in *Sussex* at *Arundel*.

The Ruff to the *Tare* in *Norfolk*.

The Lampreys to the *Severn*, that is to say the right sort of them.

A few of these may be sometimes found in other Places, but not many, or not so good as in those; as there are Lampreys in the *Thames*, but not like those in the *Severn*, these in the *Thames* are scarce fit to eat, the *Severn* Lampreys the most delicious Food in the World; there are a sort

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of Bastard Ruffs too in other Rivers, but none like those in the *Yare* in *Norfolk*.

*Windermeer* where the Char-fish are found, is a large and noble Receptacle for such a Treasure of Fish; how they came there none can tell, neither are they found in the River which runs out of the Lake, or in the Sea, into which that River empties it self; the Lake they are found in is about a Mile broad, tho' unequally so, in some Places more; and ten Miles in Length, and in some Places of a very great Depth; so that neither Nets or Hook, I mean such as Anglers ordinarily use, will easily reach the Bottom.

There are other Fish in it of several sorts, such as Bass, Pearch, Beles, and the two last sorts very large, and some Salmon. It is found that there are Char-fish in *Conningston Mere* also, which is not far from the other, but 'tis also said, or at least supposed, they are carried thither from *Winder Mere*, or might pass down out of one River and up the other, both of them entering the Sea at one Mouth, and so may be esteemed but one and the same Water: The Learned Dr. LEIGH in his *Natural History of Lancashire*, says, the Char-fish of *Conningston Mere* are larger and better than those in *Winder Mere*, but in this I doubt  
if

if the Dr. be not a little partial in behalf of the Countrey he was writing of: As to the particular way of fishing, it is very observable, that there are several ways of fishing, which they have in several Places for the same kind of Fish, according as the Usage and Custom of the People in the Countrey guides them; these it is impossible we should fully describe, neither is it much to the Business that I am now writing upon.

In *Devonshire* I have observ'd how they fish with a Dog, a way I never met with any where else, but it is but in one particular Case, *which is thus*, they make Palladoes and cross Stakes at the Tail of a Mill, the cross Pieces are set pointing inward like a Mouse Trap to one another, and the Points so close together, that when the Tide comes up, the Fish slide insensible between the Points, but cannot find the way out again when the Tide ebbs again; so that they are left in the Dock of the Mill Tail, where the Sides being walled or wharft with Stone, and the Mill shut down at the higher End, the cross Rails standing thwart the lower End, and pointing so near to one another as above, the Fish are left within, in about a Foot or Foot and Half of Water only.

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When the Tide is thus out, the Fish which are generally Salmon in the Season, and Salmon Peel when the large Salmon Season is over, are all to be seen; then they place a shove Net at the End of a Pele, at the lower End of the Dock or Mill Tail, and turn in a Dog who is bred to the Trade, at the upper End, and he drives all the Fish into the Net; and so dextrous are they at their Business, that if a Fish gets into a little Hole, or under a Stone, as if it were unwilling to be driven on to its Ruin, the unlucky Curs will wrock them out with their Noses or with their Feet.

As they manage thus with a Dog, so in *Scotland* I have seen them draw the Rivers for Salmon with two Horses; the Horses pass and repass the Rivers as there is Occasion, or as the Shoals offer, and drawing the Net cross with them as the Riders guide, bring both Ends of the Net to the Shore, when and as often as they see cause; and with them the Salmon, which other Men at Land secure, while the Horses keep still in the River, one about half the Length of the Net below the other, and following after one another, draw the River, not cross the Stream or from Bank to Bank, but long ways; and the Channels



Channels of those rapid Rivers are so broad, that unless in a Flood time the Water does not always fill the whole Breadth but leaves large Shoals, sometimes on this side the River and sometimes on that, so that they always find Room to land the Net on the Sides of those Ridges or Shoals, and draw the Fish safe on Shore.

In some Rivers towards the North of *Scotland*, they frequently draw on Shore forty or fifty, to a Hundred large Salmon thus at a Haul.

In other Salmon Rivers in *England*, they have large Wears or Stops, cross the Rivers, which because of the Salmon's leaping over them in their making forward up the Stream to cast their Spawn, are by the ignorant People call'd *Salmon Leaps*; tho' these are made chiefly to turn the Water to one side of the River to carry a Mill, sometimes two or three; at the End of these Stops, and adjoining to the Mills are Chambers, as they are not improperly call'd, being Buildings so contriv'd, that when the Water is pen'd up by the Mill, the Salmon get into the Chamber at Doors opened on Purpose, which when shut, the Water runs all on the other side, which is a kind of grating of strong Timber, so

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close placed, that the Fish cannot get through.

There are many of these Chambers in the North, as in *Yorkshire, Lancashire*, the Bishoprick of *Durham, Westmoreland, Cumberland*, &c. the best and largest that I have seen, is at a Mill plac'd upon the great Wear in the River *Eure*, just above the Bridge at *Burrowbrigg*, where it is every Day to be seen.

But that which is properly call'd a CATADOUP, or *Salmon Leap*, is when Rocks rising in the Bottom of a River, cross and interrupt the Channel, stopping the Waters above, till they swell and rise high enough to over run the Rock, and then make a Catract or Water Fall, which the Salmon will throw themselves over, by making a Spring as some call it, and as they say taking her Tail in her Mouth, and bending her Back Bone downward, till the letting it go at once gives her Strength enough to rise so high as to throw herself over those CATADOUPS at one Leap.

I very much question the Truth of the Fact as to the Manner, namely, the taking hold of her Tail; for neither does the Salmons Mouth which is small and weak, or her Tail which is large and slippery, allow the thing in it self; or the thickness of her  
Body

Body which is great and unapt, and indeed uncapable to bend so as to turn the Tail up to her Mouth, allow a Possibility of the thing.

But that they will leap or throw themselves out of the Water a great Height Perpendicular, is certain, and I affirm that I have seen a very large Salmon leap as near as I cou'd imagine, five or six Foot high, directly upright out of the Water, and some say they leap much higher, but so much I can justify from my own Knowledge.

Where the Rivers are smaller and nearer their Spring Heads, the Gentlemen use many wily crafty Ways to take the Salmon; as particularly by snaring them at the Entrance into little Pits and Deeps, where they find they are embay'd, and want a sudden Floud to carry them down the River: Here I say, they lay Shares and take them so very often, the Snare which is of Brass Wire, fastning round the Fish just below its Gills, and holds it so fast that sometimes with their struggling, it will almost cut the Fish in two.

Other times they get small Nets fitted to the Holes or Pits where they know the Fish lie, and throw at them so true, that they are very sure to take them: Other

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times if the Pits however large, are not too deep, they will draw off the whole Quantity of Water, and lay them dry, and so take the Salmon out by Hand.

But I come now to the main Design of this Work, namely, the taking or catching Fish by Rod, Line, and Hook; and this is call'd by several Names, differing in the manner, but all amounting to the same thing; *viz.* Angling, Trolling, Bobbing, Dibbling, &c. all which are comprehended in the common Term,

ANGLING.

Before I speak of *Angling* in general, it seems needful to speak a little of two things by way of Distinction.

1. The Angler or Artist at the Sport.
2. The kinds of Fish that are ordinarily angled for.

After this it will occur, in order to compleat the Work, that I give,

1. Rules for an expert Artist to observe in his Sport, so as to make a compleat Angler; particularly Rules for the Season, the Manner and the Method of Angling.

2. In-

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2. Instructions for the furnishing and managing,

1. The Tools needful for the Sport; such as Angle Rod, Lines, Hooks, Reels, single Hairs, Links of Hair, or Silk, Cocks, Floats, Landing Nets, and an innumerable Number of other Implements.

2. The Baits of several kinds; such as Ground Baits, and Baits for Hooks, with the Method for finding, procuring, curing and preserving those Baits for the respective Fish they are appointed to find.

### *1. Of the Angler.*

The Angler or Person thus employ'd in catching the Fish, is a Person under some eminent Circumstances, which allows a perfect Description of him; for he is a very particular Person indeed, nor is every Man qualified for the Work, Or, as it is justly call'd not a Work but a SPORT.

1. He is one that does not angle as a Trade or Employment, or for his Bread, but for SPORT; and therefore as above, *I do not call it a Work*, tho' otherwise it is really a thing that is to be manag'd with great Application and Diligence: But I suppose 'tis a thing that no body ever follow'd



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low'd for his Bread, or to get Money, and this is the justest Claim the *Angler* has to call himself a Gentleman, or *Gentleman Angler*. I shall leave the Dispute as I find it, he that has nothing else to show for his being a Gentleman, will find it hard to make his Title good in the *Heralds Book*; yet he that being before a Gentleman, and delights in or applies himself to Angling, will find his Quality and Honour not at all impaired by his Application to so innocent and so pleasing a Diversion.

2. He is however, or is to be suppos'd, to be a Man of Leisure, for he who being a Man of Business neglects that Business and spends the Hours on the Banks of a River catching a Gudgeon, which should be employ'd behind his Compter or in his Counting House, in order to get his Family Bread, makes the Sport become a Vice in his Morals; his Angling is a Crime, and he spends that time in his Sport, which is not his own; and which he ought to reckon among the mispent Hours, that he must account for hereafter. Such I would be far from encouraging in this Work, either by recommending the Sport to them, or instructing them in the artful part of it.

3. Some

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3. Some have said that an Angler must be a Man of no thinking, because say they, he is constantly busy on such Trifles, as that of catching a Trout, and can spend a whole Day, or perhaps a Day and Night, nay many Days and Nights, on so mean an Affair, and they would therefore compare him to the Lord *Rochester's* Countreyman, who

*Whistled as he went for want of Thought.*

On the other Hand, I take it to be rather a Token of a thinking retir'd Disposition, or else a meer want of Employment; and they might then more justly apply it to those who the same Lord *Rochester* represents as profess'd Thinkers,

---

*Who  
Retire to think because they've nought to do.*

It must be allow'd that as it is a kind of *still Life*, (as the Painters call it) it is most suitable to retir'd Minds; 'tis a pleasing kind of Diversion to a Person who loves to be alone, and yet I do not think it is at all of kin to any thing of what they call Melancholy; for 'tis a Mistake when we think that a truly melancholy Man, can apply himself with such Calmness and such a sedate

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date Mind, as is requir'd to make Angling a Sport; for the Mind of a melancholy Man, is far from being in Repose, on the contrary, there is nothing farther from it; a melancholy Man has his Spirits always in Agitation, and in a Hurry; and therefore you find him the most easy of any Man in the World to be put in a Passion, and to fly out in the most dangerous Extrems of it upon every trifling Occasion; such a Man is not fit to be an Angler, nay is not fit to be trusted by the River side with an Angle Rod in his Hand. On the contrary, he that angles, must have all his Passions at his Command, he must govern his Temper with an absolute Sway, and be able to sustain his Mind under the greatest Disappointments.

Alas the Sport of Angling is liable to the greatest Vicissitudes, and to the most provoking Incidents; *Job's* Loss of his Children by the Fall of the House, was a very great Trial indeed, but what is all that to a Man having taken a charming Trout, or a large Pike, and brought him with the utmost Dexterity to the very Landing Net, or perhaps just to the Rivers Bank, and at one Spring have him get from him and recover the River again, when he was as it were in his Hands; if  
the

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the Angler does not stamp and stare, swear an Hundred Oaths, or pull the Hair off his Head, nay if he does not throw himself into the very River after it, he must be allow'd to be a Man of great Temper, and have the Command of himself to a Wonder.

Whereas on the contrary, the true Angler takes all this as calmly and quietly as if it had been nothing; but goes, and new fits his Tackle, new baits his Hook, and throws it into the River again, with as much Calmness, as if nothing had happen'd; only *by the way*, he does not throw his Hook again in the same Place, for Reasons we shall see, as we go on.

Nor are two or three, or many such Disappointments in a Day, able to move him, provided he is assured that he was not defective in the Art; that every thing was as it should be, and that nothing but unforeseen and unavoidable Circumstances in the Case, made the Fish escape him.

I remember a Gentleman, whose Credit I can depend on, (many Years ago) gave me the following Account, of which he was an Eye Witness. " I was Angling, *says* " *he*, with two Gentlemen, my Compani-  
" ons, and who were expert in every  
" part of the Sport, on the Bank of the  
" long

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“ long new Cut or Drain which carries  
 “ the River *Nyne* or *Neen* from *Peterbo-*  
 “ *rough* to *Wisbich*, in the Isle of *Ely*; one  
 “ of our Company having good Sport, had  
 “ wandred down the Stream to some  
 “ pretty good Distance from us, and was  
 “ fishing as it were by himself; and find-  
 “ ing by losing his Bait, Hook and all, two  
 “ or three times, that he was gotten to  
 “ a Place where he might have better  
 “ Sport than that he was at, tho’ he had  
 “ taken a good Dish of Fish before; but I  
 “ say finding it thus, he sits down and fits  
 “ a new kind of Tackle to his Rod, and  
 “ goes a Trolling for a Jack; after some  
 “ time he hallood to us that were fishing  
 “ at some Distance, and holding up a Fish  
 “ in his Hand, Curiosity led us to leave  
 “ our Sport and run to him, where we  
 “ found he had taken a very fine Pike,  
 “ near twenty four Inches long.

“ We had not return’d to our Sport at  
 “ a Distance, *as above*, but on a suddain  
 “ we heard him halloo again, and turn-  
 “ ing our Eyes towards the Place, behold  
 “ we heard him still calling out, but  
 “ could see nothing of the Man; upon  
 “ which we run to him with all Speed,  
 “ imagining he had fallen into the River  
 “ and cry’d out for Help: As we came  
 “ nearer



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" nearer to him, we plainly heard him  
" cry out, help, help, help, but still cou'd  
" not see him, which you may be sure  
" quickned our Speed.

" At length as we came nearer, we saw  
" him lying flat on his Belly, and at his  
" full Length, and his two Arms extend-  
" ed strait before him, holding the Line  
" fast, but durst pull no nearer than he  
" had done, till we came; and we ask'd  
" him at some Distance what was the  
" matter, he answered still, only *help,*  
" *help,* or he should be pull'd into the Ri-  
" ver; one of us answered again, what  
" is it? what is it? O help, help, says  
" the Sports Man, I have got the Devil  
" upon my Hook; nay said I, you may  
" well fear he'll pull you in then. No  
" says my Friend, pull him out then,  
" land him, land him.

" By this time our Fright was over,  
" and we were come up to him, and cou'd  
" easily see he had caught some Devil of a  
" Fish, tho' we cou'd not see the Fish it  
" self; at first we ask'd him if he had gi-  
" ven her any Play, he assur'd us he had,  
" and that she had run away with his  
" Line three or four times, but that he  
" had drawn her to him again gently, and  
" that the last time he found her spent  
" and

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“ and weak, and that she came on quietly till he had a sight of her, when on a sudden she gave a Spring, that he thought would have carry’d all his Tackle away, and after that when he began to draw in again, she gave two or three such Pulls, as he thought would have pull’d him into the River, but that his Line and all his Furniture being excellent good, held him, and there he was in that Posture we saw him in.

“ We bad him try her again and pull her forward, and my Friend took hold of the Line to relieve him, but found when he pull’d, that tho’ the Fish did come forward a little, yet that it was monstrous heavy, and hard to come on : While he pull’d on thus, the other took his Landing Net to stand ready, and in a little time they brought the Prize so near, that they expected to land it in a few Moments ; when on a sudden the Fish gave another Jerk, and my Friend cried she was gone, and was going to pull the Line out : However, he found there was some Weight still at the Hook, tho’ nothing like what was before ; what was left he pull’d easily out, and the other, that is the first Angler, landed it with the Net.

“ When

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“ When we came to see it, there was  
“ room for Surprize indeed, the Case was  
“ thus: He had upon his Hook a large  
“ Pike, which we measur’d two and twenty  
“ Inches, and which with hauling up  
“ and down was almost dead, the Hook  
“ having taken full hold at the Root of  
“ its Tongue. But when we came to look  
“ upon it nearer in Hand, it was evident,  
“ that another Fish, a Pike it may be  
“ suppos’d, of a much greater Size, had  
“ struck at this Fish as the Angler drew  
“ him along, and had taken the Body of  
“ it into its voracious Mouth, for full the  
“ Length of eight Inches from the Tail,  
“ Tail and all; here he hung pulling and  
“ dragging, in such a manner as might  
“ well make the Angler call for Help,  
“ and say he had the Devil upon his  
“ Hook.

“ This furious Creature it seems had so  
“ strook its Teeth into the Flesh of the  
“ first Pike, that when he found himself  
“ in Danger, he had some Difficulty to  
“ disengage himself, and at last in part-  
“ ing, had not only wounded the Fish,  
“ but torn away a great deal of the Flesh  
“ off of his Back, in a manner I never had  
“ seen the like of.

“ What

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“ What Dimensions the larger of those  
“ two Pikes must be of, I leave it to the  
“ skilful Anglers to judge of; but I have  
“ been told it has not been thought a  
“ Wonder in that Countrey, to see a Pike  
“ of thirty to thirty four Inches long.

Thus far, my Friends Story, which I firmly believe to be Truth, having it from a Gentleman whose Veracity I never had any cause to doubt; the Hint to be taken from it to my Purpose, is chiefly, to advise those who Troll for Pikes, to take care that all their Furniture be strong, and in good Condition, that they be armed against all Events; for who cou'd have foreseen the having the Weight and the Strength of two Pikes of such Size as those must be, hanging to the Hook at one time.

This Story, however shews what a voracious Creature, and how furious in his Feeding the Pike is; of which I shall say more presently, being in the next Place to discourse. 2. Of the kinds of Fish which are furnished by the Inland Waters, Rivers and Lakes, of this Kingdom, for the Diversion of the Gentleman Angler, as above.

*Of the PIKE.*

Tho' the Salmon is call'd the King of the fresh Water Fish, yet the Pike is, and that more justly call'd, the King of the fresh Water, the Salmon is King in the Dish, the Pike is King in the River; nor is he King only, but as a Monarch that rules by Arbitrary Power, and delights in the Blood of his Subjects, he is call'd also the Tyrant of the River; and justly may he be said to be the Terror of the watery People.

The only Resisters of his Power, and that scorn and despise him, are the Peach and the Ruff; the Peach sticking up her prickly Fins upon her Back, which are such, that the Pike durst not meddle with, will sail proudly by the Pike, as it were, in Defiance of his devouring Jaws; while all the rest of the Inhabitants of the River fly from his Presence, into Holes, and under the Shelter of Weeds and Bushes, for the Safety of their Lives.

*From his fierce Looks the frighted trembling Fry,  
To Holes and Sedge Pits for Safety fly:  
While the bold Peach, arm'd with well pointed Spears,  
Defies the Tyrant's Force, and by his Side appears.*

**This**



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This *Fresh Water Tyrant*, is a most excellent Dish when taken, especially if fat and full grown; his Flesh is firm, well tasted, and wholesome, agreeable both to the Palate and to the Stomach, and therefore the skilful Angler spares no Pains to get hold of him with the Hook, and to keep the Hold too when he has got it; for he is not always taken when he is toucht, he will sometimes take the Hook and hold it quietly in his Mouth a great while, sucking the Bait only, and never let the Hook come near his Jaw or Throat so as to take hold of him, just as if he was sensible there was Death in it, and that if he swallow'd it farther, it would be his Ruin; in this Case, if the Angler pulls too soon, or too much side-ways, he pulls it out of his Mouth again, and misses his Game. In such Case therefore, it would be well if the Rod be long enough, or the Bank high on which the Angler stands, that he pull the Line upwards perpendicular, if that may be; and if not, as near it as he can, because then it will go near to take hold of his upper Jaw as it comes out, and if once it hooks him there, you have him safe, unless your Tackle break; that is to say, either the Hook or the Line, both which often happens.

But

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But to go back to the Fish it self, the Pike is of a larger growth, and as some think, lives a great many Years; those who talk apace of these Things say, a Pike will live an hundred Years; and others say, twice as much, they might as well when their Hand was in, say a thousand Years, their Authority would be much the same, and one be as capable of Proof as another.

The largest Size of a Pike that I have ever met with, was a Yard and Quarter; but these are very rarely seen; a Pike of twenty eight or thirty Inches, is esteemed to be in its full Perfection, and of the best size; thirty six Inches is reckon'd a first rate Pike, above that, is reckoned a valuable Rarity.

The Mouth of the Pike is a frightful thing to look into, the extensive size of the Jaw, being at least seven Inches in a full grown Pike, causes him to be able to open his Mouth exceeding wide, like a Crocodile; his Jaw-bone also is very strong.

It is arm'd with six Rows of sharp Teeth; this is the Grave of all the small Fish in the River, as he can come at them, and as I said above, the Terror of all the rest, except the Pearch and the Ruff.

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Being of this Growth and Length, the Pike is an exceeding strong Fish, and very unruly when first he feels the Hook ; and it requires great Dexterity as well as Art to secure him, after he is fairly hook'd ; but on the other hand, as he is a very valuable Fish when caught, and well worth the Angler's Labour, so he spares no Pains, no Art for the effectual surprising and taking him.

*How to Angle for a Pike.*

The usual ways of fishing for a Pike are Two, namely,

The Trowl, and  
The Snap.

In trowling, which of the Two is much the greater Diversion, there are several Methods ; but first let the Tackle be considered, which in the several ways of Trowling are much the same.

1. You must have a Rod at least sixteen or seventeen Foot long, and not brought to so small a Point at the End as for other Angling ; but strong enough at the end to fasten a Ring to

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to run the Line thro'; Care must be also taken, that the Wood of the Rod be of a tough kind, that will give way a little, and not be kept too long dry, which will render it brittle and apt to break short; it would be well therefore, if the last or outmost Joynt were of a good piece of season'd *Tew*, which will never turn *Sear* or Brittle, at least not in many Years.

2. *For your Line*, Hair Lines are too weak for this Sport; your Line must be of fine and well twisted Silk, for at least a Yard or two from the Wire, which carries the Hook; after the Silk, you joyn a particular kind of (Packthread) Line made on purpose, but of the same Nature as Packthread, only better stuff and better twisted; this should be at least twenty Yards long in small Rivers; But if the Water you fish in is large, thirty to forty Yards or more, as you see cause.
3. *For the Hook*, there are two ways of ordering your Hook in Trowling for a Pike, and two or three sorts of Hooks: The ways of ordering your Hook are,

E 2

1. When

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1. When you Troul, one Hook seems to me to be the best, and that a pretty large one, that it may take good Hold ; I know some take two Hooks, placing them in a kind of Curve, the Points respecting one another, making about one eighth Part of a Circle ; but this latter way seems to be best adapted to the other way of fishing, namely, the Snap, of which in its place.
2. Your Hook must be armed, as the Artists call it, with a strong twisted Wire (of Brass is the best) tho' Steel Wire may perform, only that it will be apt to Rust ; and this must reach at least a Foot long before your silk Line begins ; nothing but Wire will resist the force of the Pikes Jaws, but he will tear all away, first gnawing it with his Teeth, which are not only very sharp, but stand very thick and close.
3. Your Hook must be well buried in the Bait, that is to say, so that it may not only be out of sight as much as you can ; but that it may not be presently felt by the Pike, for if she feels it in the Bait, before she has sufficiently pouched it, which will be



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be sometime before she swallows it, she will work it out of her Mouth again; without letting it touch her, or at least, not so as to hurt her.

This therefore must be carefully managed when the Bait is put on, also the Hook should not only be buried deep in the Body of the Bait, lying as it were in the Throat of the Fish you bait with, but the Mouth should be sow'd up, that the Hook may not work out.

Some place the Hook in the Tail of the Fish (which is your Bait) but this I take to be no artful way, and consequently no way to make sure of the Game; for the Hook is then immediately felt by the Fish, and the Angler must strike as soon as the Pike gorges the Bait, in which Case he runs much hazard of missing the Fish; whereas the other way, as it is the more artful and more cautious, so it is much more certain of taking the Pike.

4. It remains that I mention the proper *Bait* for Trowling; the Bait for this part of the Sport, is with any small Fish about three or four Inches long, such as a Bleak or Minnow, or Gudgeon; or a small Dace, Trout, or fry

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of the Salmon; some take a small Roach, but they are generally too broad in shape, a Piece of an Eel is counted an excellent Bait, and in the Spring Season, a small Frog does very well.

There are several Ways of baiting the Hook for Trouling, and as this is a nice part, and on which much depends, I shall without puzzling the ingenious Enquirer, resolve them all into this full Direction: Take a long Needle, and some whited brown Thread, two or three times doubled, fasten the Thread to the Wire, which (as above) joyns the Hook, then thrust the Needle into the Mouth of the *Baitfish*, and lead it in a Line through its Body, but under the Backbone, till it comes out at or near the Tail; then draw the Thread, and at the end of it the Wire, and after that the Hook into, and thro' the whole Body of the said Baitfish, till the Hook be wholly drawn into its Mouth, then take off your Needle and Thread, and fasten the Wire to the silk part of the Line, the silk Line to the long Line, and the long Line to your Reel or Rod.

When

When the Wire is thus drawn thro' the Fody of the *Baitfish*, you must take a Needle full of finer Thread, and sow up the Mouth of the said *Baitfish*, so that the said Hook may not slip or move out of its place; after this, tye the Tail of the *Baitfish* fast to the Wire, that it may not run down, and draw round in a Lump, which will make it cease to look like a Fish: Thus prepar'd, the Angler arm'd only with Patience and a good Eye, may not question but if there are any Pikes in the River, he will have some of them.

Some Trowl for a Pike without an Angle Rod, and only take the Line in their Hand; nor is it an ill way if they are very dexterous and perfect in the Sport, but the Hook must be well poiz'd with Lead, or they will not be able to sink it, and raise it, as there may be occasion.

Those that study to make the Sport as much a Diversion as they can, whether they take the Fish or no, tye the Line to a Bladder, fastening the Line in the Cleft of a small Stick to keep it from sinking lower than it should do; thus the Bladder swimming upon the Water, when the Pike has taken the Bait, and runs away with the Line, as she will do as soon as it comes to strain the Line, the Bladder

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yielding a little at first, starts up again, and gives the Pike as effectual a Jerk as the Angler would if he were to strike with his Hand; and thus the Pike and the Bladder will bob, and play at one another very agreeably, a great while.

Others again, do the same thing with a Goose, tying the Line to the Foot of a Goose, and the Pike, if it be a large one, will sometimes pull the Goose quite under Water, and the poor Goose, disabled swimming as he should do, for want of one Leg, is in the greatest Confusion imaginable, frightened and hurried as if bewitch'd.

But this is all meerly for the sake of Sport, and cannot well be done neither but in a Pond, or some Pit or place where the Line will not be tangled or hung about Weeds, Posts, Trees, or such like Obstructions.

### *2. For the fishing at the Snap for a Pike.*

In this way of fishing, you differ from the Trowling in the following particular.

1. All your Tackle must be stronger for the Snap than for the Trowl, because in the Snap you strike at first touch, and strike with more Strength a great deal,

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deal, and also strike oftner, also when you feel the Fish upon your Bait, you strike twice together with a brisk Hand, so that if your Tackle be not very good, you break all away, and lose your Fish too.

2. Your Hook is different, for at the Snap you must have a double Spring Hook, which secures your Game, tho' the Pike hold the Hook fast in his Teeth, as sometimes he will, in which Case, if the Spring Hook takes him not within, it will hook him on the out side of his Jaw.

3. For the Snap, you place your Hook in a different manner in the *Baitfish*, than in the Trowling, for you thrust the Wire into the *Baitfishes* side, and so out at its Mouth, and then sow the fishes Mouth up, and then the Hook buries it self in the Flesh of the *Baitfish*; but then you should not let the Wire run thro' the Belly of the *Baitfish*, only under the Skin, and above its Rib-bones, that the Hook may have nothing to pierce thro' but the Skin, before it reach the Jaw of the Pike, for if it be too deep in the Body of the *Baitfish*, it may not reach to the Pike, or not far enough to



strike him when you give the Jerk, and then you certainly lose your Game.

4. When you fish at the Trowl, you let the Pike run his own way, and as far as he will, or at least as your Line will allow; but at the Snap you stay indeed till the Pike begins to run, and let him go a little, but not much, and then strike him heartily in cheque of his way, depending that your Tackling will hold him, struggle and flounce about how he will.
5. In the Snap you must be sure to strike the contrary way to that which the Fish lies or runs, otherwise striking so soon, you will only pull the Bait out of his Mouth; whereas, at the Trowl, you wait till the Pike has swallowed it quite down, and then you pull safely, pull which way you please.

Some general Rules for fishing for Pike.

1. In casting your Hook into the Water give it a check with your Hand, just as it is falling into the Water, that it may not plump or dash in too hard, and make a

Vibration, or Undulation rather, in the Water, which disturbs and gives notice to the Fish that Enemies are at hand, and it may be, drives him from the place.

2. After your Bait is in and sinking, cheque it again with your Hand, and pull it a little towards you, then let it sink again a little, and so two or three times, that it may be kept moving, and sink by Degrees.

3. There is great nicety in ordering the Lead for sinking the Bait; the best kind is four square, and thick and short; I know most Trowlers make them round, long and thin, at least much thinner than I propose; but the square thick Lead is much the better for steadying the Hook, and keeping it from shifting up and down, which if it does, it will draw the Bait out of its proper Shape also, and make it lie oblique, whereas the Bait ought to lie with its Head downwards, as if the Fish had been at the Surface of the Water, and was shooting downward again; for the Snap indeed a round hollow Lead should be made, which should lie with the Hook in the Mouth of the Bait-fish, to help sink the Bait into its Place.

4. For the Bait it self, it should be remark'd, that a large Bait is not always

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best for a Pike, be he never so great ; for tho' he may bite sooner at a great Bait than at a small one, yet the Angler will oftner miss taking him, for he does not gorge the large Bait so soon as a smaller.

*N. B.* If you use a large white Minnow for your Bait, you may take both Pike and Pearch, if they are to be had, especially where the Pearch are very large.

*N. B.* The Hook must always be proportion'd to the Bait, in your fishing for a Pike, not a large Hook and a small Bait ; and as the smaller Bait will the most surely take the Game, so the smaller Hook will take the Game as sure as the greater, especially where the Hook is very good, and the Shank of it strong and well laid.

*N. B.* Always troul in clear Water, and if you can in clear Weather, but especially if it be windy and clear too.

Besides this particular Method of the Trowl and Snap, a Pike may be taken in the ordinary Course of Angling, as other Fish are taken ; only observing that the Rod must be something stronger than usual, and as long as you can well manage.

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In Angling, you must bait with a Minnow, or a Gudgeon, or a Dace, they are certainly the best, and the Shank of the Hook must be drawn into the Baitfishes Mouth, turning the point of the Hook directly upon its Face, making it lye as close to the Skin as possible: Having thus fixt your Bait and cast it into the Water, you must play it up and down, just as you do in Trowling, not letting it lye still at all, or but very little, and never letting it sink above half a Yard into the Water, and not that if the River is not at least three or four Foot deep. When you find the Pike has taken it, if he runs away with it, let him go, tho' it be to the utmost end of your Line, and do not strike at all, but hold still, and let him take his own Time; for he will certainly swallow it down, and play backward and forward with it: Then when you find he returns and goes off again, strike him smartly, but not very strongly, and you are sure of him.

There is another way of taking Pike, and that is, by snaring, and still another, by shooting; but I shall speak of both in another Place.

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*Of the Season of the Pike.*

The best Season for trowling for a Pike, is in *February*, not *March*, all *April*, half *May*, and then no more till *September*; and then all that Month, and all *October*; if the Weather be cool and wet you may begin in *August*; and if it be warm and mild you may trowl till the middle of *November*; but as this is not the best Time for the Trowling, so neither is it for the Trowler, it being very cold and aguish standing on the Banks of Rivers and Lakes, in the Month of *November*.

The Pike differs from most other Fish, in two Things,

1. That the Male is better than the Female.
2. That the oldest and greatest are not the best.

— Generally speaking, the Female Fish is better than the Male, and the oldest and largest Fish are the best; whence 'tis a proverbial Saying, That *old Fish and young Flesh* are best: But in the Pike the middling siz'd Fish are the best, and by much the fattest. He is a Fish that loves large  
large



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large Rivers or Lakes, and if confin'd to small Rivers or Brooks, and to small Ponds, never grows to any extraordinary Size. It is observable, that the Pike swims always single; for as he is a great Devourer of the other Fish, they all fly from him, and as for his own Kind, 'tis evident there is no great Friendship among them, for they never swim together, from whence 'tis not very improbable that they do prey upon one another. The River *Perrot* in *Somersetshire*, is famous for a great Multitude of Pike, and of a large Size, but the rest of the Fish are much the fewer for them. The following Story was told me by a Gentleman of the Countrey, who I give full Credit to, neither is there any thing incredible in the Story.

“ A Countrey Fellow that liv'd with a  
“ Gentleman near ——— in *Somerset-*  
“ *shire*, being sent of an Errand to some  
“ neighbouring Place that was near the  
“ River, and coming over some Meadows  
“ very wet, and which a few Weeks  
“ before had been overflow'd by the Ri-  
“ ver, finds in a little plashy watery  
“ Place, a vast Multitude of young Fish;  
“ he knew not what sort they were, but re-  
“ solv'd to have some of them; so he  
“ runs home, delivers his Errand which  
“ he

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“ he had been about, and taking a Boy  
 “ with him, and each of them a large  
 “ Bucket or Pail, they fills them both with  
 “ the Fish, and some Water among them to  
 “ keep them alive, and in order to do his  
 “ Master a wonderful Service, put them  
 “ all into a large Fish Pond in his Master’s  
 “ Park; not content with this, they  
 “ went a second time, and fill’d their  
 “ Pails again, and did the like, and when  
 “ they had done, boasted at home how  
 “ they had stock’d their Master’s Pond  
 “ with Fish; the Master, who heard  
 “ of it, asked them some Days after what  
 “ Fish it was, the Fellows answered, they  
 “ did not know the Name of them, but  
 “ they were small Fish, about as big as  
 “ Gudgeons; the Master thought no more  
 “ of it, but that it was very well, for  
 “ that they would serve to feed his larger  
 “ Fish, of which he had great Store in  
 “ the Pond.

“ But time discovered the Case; for on  
 “ a sudden the Fish decreased in the Pond,  
 “ and in about a Years time or little  
 “ more, there was no Fish to be had, ex-  
 “ cept now and then an overgrown Carp  
 “ or Tench, but in the Room of them  
 “ the Pond swarm’d with young Jacks,  
 “ and that to such a Degree, that there  
 “ was

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“ was no destroying them : After some  
“ time, the Pond grew famous for fine fat  
“ Pikes, but few Fish besides to be had,  
“ except some great Eels and some Perch.  
“ The Matter of Fact was, that the young  
“ Fry the Fellow brought, were all young  
“ Jacks, and of which he put to be sure  
“ at the least, a Bushel into the Pond :  
“ What a prodigious Quantity there was  
“ left and spawn'd in that Place, any one  
“ may guess, and no doubt but the next  
“ Flood they went all into the River  
“ again.

The Pike spawns in *March*, about the  
Middle and latter End of the Month, so  
never fish for them in *March*, nor till mid  
*April*.

N. B. The Pike will never bite in rainy  
dark Weather, nor in what we call  
white Water, that is to say, when a  
strong Rain renders the Water of a  
whitish Colour, with the Mud wash'd  
into it by the rising of the Waters in  
a Land Flood.

*Of the Trout.*

I join the Trout to the Pike in this Dis-  
course, not because they are any way *a kin*  
to

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to one another, but because the Way of fishing for them, has some Affinity one with another ; tho' this of Trout fishing has the greatest Variety and Nicety in it, and consequently the greatest Diversion.

Indeed the fishing for Trout, requires the most exquisite Skill ; no Fish are so very nice in biting, so choice in taking the Bait, or so shy of the Hook : If they see the Line, they will seldom bite at all ; if they see the Angler, never ; and therefore 'tis observable, that if you fish for him with a single Hair at the Hook, or for two or three Links above the Hook, you shall catch five for one that you shall catch if you fish with a Link of twisted Hairs ; it is true, a very large Trout will break all away, and is not to be taken by a single Hair : But it is wonderful to think, how large a Trout may sometimes be taken with a single Hair, very often from twelve to fourteen or fifteen Inches long.

The Trout is also a very strong swift Fish, and will struggle long with the Artist before he will yield ; running among Weeds, Roots of Trees, old Piles, and into Holes, and any where to save their Lives, and by this Means often entangle and break the Tackle which holds them, which

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which as I said above, must not be very strong near the Hook.

As soon as they are struck, they run away with the Line like a Pike, but are drawn gently out by the skilful Hand of the Angler, and the second time they will not run so far as at first, and so gradually they are landed by a Hand Net or Landing Net, and secur'd, being spent and fateagued with their struggling, and with the Pain they feel.

The Trout is a furious, voracious, and devouring Fish, and therefore when he takes the Bait, he does it so violently, that he gorges it at once, and for that Reason is the surer to be taken when he has it; for when you strike, you are certain to lay hold somewhere, the Danger as above, is of breaking your Tackle.

And yet for all this there are Ways to make a single Line, whether of Hair, or other Materials, such as the ingenious Artist finds proper, that will hold a strong Pull or two of the largest Trout. The *Swiss* and the *Millanese*, and the Inhabitants of the more mountainous part of *Italy*, are esteemed the greatest Artists at Trout Fishing, perhaps in the World; and it is not unlikely it may be occasioned by the many fine Trout Rivers which they have  
among



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among the *Alps*, and falling from those Mountains either into the *Po* on the *South*, the *Rhine* on the *North*, or the *Rhosne* on the *West* Sides of that Countrey.

These they tell us, make a fine and exceeding strong Hair or Line, resembling a single Hair, which is drawn from the Bowels of the Silk Worms; the glutinous Substance of which is such, that like the Cats Gut which makes Strings for the Viol and Violin, of an unaccountable Strength, so this will be so strong, as nothing of so small a Size can equal it in Nature; for it is rather smaller than the single Hair ordinarily us'd in fishing, and strong as the Catgut it self; so that with these Lines, they secure the strongest Fish in those Rivers, where they have some Trouts also very large as well as other Fish.

I have seen an Imitation of these Worm Gut Lines in *England*, and indifferent strong too, but not like that I have mentioned in *Italy*; yet these will hold a Fish of a good Size too, if she is not too violent, and does not too nimbly harness her self among Weeds, and Roots of Trees, where she cannot be pull'd out.

I might give many diverting Stories here, of the slippery Tricks which some Trouts of the first Magnitude have serv'd  
the

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the younger and less experienced Anglers : Particularly how a large Trout was taken in the *Stour*, between *Canterbury* and *Fordwich*, which had five Hooks found in her Body, which it seems she cou'd not get out again, tho' she had so harbour'd herself, as to break the Angler's Tackle after she had swallow'd their Baits. It may suffice to hint to the cautious Angler, that the Trout chiefly breaks the Fisherman's Tackle, by twining the Line about Posts and Piles, and Roots of Trees, and such Places, where pulling the Line will not affect him, and in such a manner as that it may not affect him ; for if straining the Line is felt by him, he either must come out with it, or it pulls out his Entrails and kills him : Wherefore if the Angler finds his Line hung so, that by pulling gently and cautiously it does not follow at all, he should strip and go in if he can, or get some dextrous Fellow to strip and go in for him, and feeling cautiously under the Pile or Root where the Line is hung, it is ten to one but he may lay hold on his Game, and bring him fairly up by Hand : If it be a Place so difficult as not to come at it by Hand, he may perhaps spear him with a smaller Trout Spear ; if neither of these will do, he must be content to wait,  
but

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but do not let him break the Line, for then the Fish goes off again, but let all stand as it does, and it may so happen, that the Fish not able to disengage himself, will die upon the Hook, and then you will perhaps see him, if the Water be clear, floating nearer the Surface than before, and near enough to be secur'd. This is thought by some, to be a valuable Secret in Trout Fishing, for nothing is more frequent, than for the Trout after he is struck, to hamper the Line in such a Manner, as that he can never be drawn out, and yet to leave himself so much Line free of the Post, or Tree, or Root, that if he dies on the Hook, he will swim up near the Surface, if not quite upon it.

The Grailing, which some think to be a Species of the Trout, only better Meat, if you will believe Mr. Cotton, of *Derbyshire*, (who was without doubt the most laborious Trout Catcher, if not the most experienc'd Angler, both for Trout and Grailing, that ever *England* had) I say the Grailing is often taken after the same manner as the Trout, and therefore I shall have the less to say of him, when in Course he comes to be spoken of.

The Trout loves rapid Currents, and clear swift Streams, with gravelly, or sandy,

dy, or stony Bottoms, especially a chalky Bottom, or a Water rising from, or running thro' chalky Grounds; and this is evident, from the excellent Trouts which are found in the River *Stour*, which runs thro' *Camterbury*; the River *Wandell*, rising at *Croydon* and *Caschulton* in *Surrey*; the River *Dart*, rising at *Orford*, and running thro' *Dartford*; the *Kennet* in *Berksbire*, rising at, or near *Marlborough*; and all the Rivers universally of *Hampshire*, *Wiltshire*, and *Gloucestershire*, the flat Countrey on the Western Sides of those Countries, only excepted.

The larger Rivers, such as the *Thames*, the *Severn*, and the *Trent*, have also excellent Trouts near their Beginnings, and where their Streams are small and divided; but when those Rivers are large and deep, the Trouts are but rarely found in them. On the other Hand, some small Rivers which are rather to be call'd Brooks than Rivers, have in them very good Trout.

We find very few Trouts in the Lakes and Meers in the Isle of *Ely*, or in *Lancashire*, and other Countries in the North, where Lakes are large and frequent; but in the swift Currents and clear Streams, there they have good Trouts in those Northern

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thern Countries, as well as elsewhere.

Tho' he loves these swift Waters in general, yet he lies often in the quietest Place he can find in such Streams; as particularly under a Head Land or Point, where the forcible Current pushing off from the Shore, leaves a calm Pit or Hole behind the Point, or where it occasions an Eddy. In the Stream he will not lie; but as it were, shelter'd by the Land, he lies in the Eddy, and watches there for what the Stream may bring along with it, so that this is a curious Place for the Angler to throw in his Hook, that is to say, if he can come down the Shore so well conceal'd that the Trout cannot see either the Man or the Angle Rod; to this Purpose, the subtle wary Angler having first pointed out the Place, keeps back as much as his Line will give him Leave, and throwing in above the Place, lets his Bait drive by the Place in the Stream, himself as above, being unperceiv'd; if the Trout does not strike at it passing by in the Stream, let him not draw it out, but softly bring it out of the Stream into the Eddy, which will bring it back to the Place where the Fish lies, or so near as that he will see it, and 'tis ten to one but he strikes at it as it comes on: If he does not yet take Notice  
of



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of it, let it drive out again into the Stream, and so let it go down and come back again two or three Times; if he does not take it in that time, you may conclude, the Gentleman is not at Home, that he is abroad upon Business; so you may remove and call as you come that Way again: But if the Trout be really there, and does not take it, then 'tis probable, he has seen the Line, or seen the Rod, or seen the Angler. And the Text about Birds, is certainly true of this Fish; *Surely in vain is the Net spread in their Sight*; for if they discover any of the three, they will not meddle with it, if they had ever so much mind to it before.

Next to such a Haunt as this, the Trout loves to lie at the Tail of a Mill; and here you shall find him, not in the tumultuous foaming Current of the Mills Sluice, but at a near Distance under the first hanging Tree, or under any old Pile that stands pretty near the Shore; here he plies like a Porter, and nothing scares him that comes down the Stream, provided only that as before, he is not permitted to see the Angler, or the Angle Rod.

Sometimes when the Apron or Floor of the Mill Tail (which is generally made of Boards or Plank) is pretty much worn  
F by

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by the Force of the Stream, you shall find a strong Eddy under Water, tho' there is a violent Shoot of the Water from the Floor of the Mill Tail, and this Eddy works a Hollow under the Boards or Plank as above; in such a Hollow you will seldom fail of a Trout, and 'tis Odds but if you find one there, 'tis a good one.

To come at him here, requires a great deal of Skill; for if you would bring your Bait in his View, you must stand above just behind him, and take Care as I have said, to be so far behind, as to be out of his Sight too: But the main Difficulty is, how to strike him, for when he has taken your Bait, you cannot strike towards you, nor you cannot strike upwards, for in both these Cases, you endanger drawing your Line in among the broken split Pieces of the Boards which make the Apron of the Mill, and which are ordinarily uneven and much worn: On the other Hand, to go about with your Line and Rod in your Hand to either Side the Mill Tail, which is generally deep and broad, will very seldom give you any Help of that Kind.

The only way that will assist you in this Case, is to have a long Silk Line, of twenty or thirty Yards Length, made fast to your other Line, at two or three Yards from

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from your Hook, and putting a Float to the End of it that it may swim upon the Surface and be found, throw the End of it from you into the Mill Tail, and send another round with a Pole and Hook to take hold of it as it drives down, and draw it to him; when he has got the End of it in his Hand, cut off or untie your other Line as low as you can come at it, and strike the Fish, by which Means, you stand fair to draw him out without any Obstruction.

In the like manner you find the Trout lying at Catch under any old Wear, or any ruin'd Bridge, or in short, in any Place where you can find the Stream leaving a deep Hole, where it turns again in an Eddy; and yet you do not always find a Trout in these Places, for sometimes he haunts the very Middle of the Stream, and only lodges himself at the Foot of some Shoal or Bank, of Sand, or Gravel, or Chalk, where he may lie securely, Pyrate like, to watch for Purchase as the Stream brings it down; here tho' he lies more openly, yet he lies safest, for here if you will leave him, you must come barefac'd in his View, and run the Venture of his taking or not taking your Bait: If he is very hungry and eager, perhaps he

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will,

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will, But in this Case, the best Method is to trowl for him, and to do it without a Rod, keeping the Line coil'd up in your Hand, and at as great a Distance from him as you can ; standing above him that your Bait may drive down directly in the Stream, as near him as you can, but if he does not take it, in two or three times driving by him, you may e'en give it over, for you may be sure he will not meddle with it at all,

If then this Method fail you, take a Fly and try him with that, in the same manner as before, and 'tis very likely you may take him with the Fly, of which in its Place.

In this Case, of a Trout lying in the Middle, or Side of a Current in the open River, some have cunningly form'd a large Block of Timber, with a Weight sufficient to sink it, or made of a Piece of Water soak'd Wood, which will lie at the Bottom, and in a convenient part of this Block, they place a Pulley made of Brass or Iron, only not bright.

Sink this Block in the Water cross the Stream, in a proper Place, and 'tis great Odds but in a Day or two a Trout makes a Haunt of it ; that is to say, she will lie under the Shelter of it to watch for her  
Prey :

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Prey: The Night before you intend to try for her, go to the Block, 'tis supposed it does not lie in very deep Water, reive then a Line into the Pulley, and draw both the Ends of it with you to the Shore, when you come to fish, fasten a short Line with the Hook well baited, to the Middle of the first Line, keeping still both Ends in your Hand; then you let one End of your Line run a while, drawing in with the other till the short Line with the Hook comes just to the Pulley, then stop again, and the Line with the Hook and Bait drives of Course just its Length below the Pulley in the Stream, so that it comes just by the Fish which lies below the Block; if the Trout takes the Bait, you immediately let go one of the Lines Ends, 'tis no matter which, and let the other run out as long as the Trout will draw, if you have Line enough; after which you must draw in your Turn, and then bringing the Fish on a little, you manage her according to Art. This is a Way not often try'd, but when artfully done, seldom fails, and is a Secret well worth the Angler's Knowledge.

The larger the Block or Log of Timber is, the better, if it were as big as two Men cou'd carry into the Water,



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only, that it shou'd not be too long; if it be two Foot or three Foot long, it is enough, never above four Foot, and as thick and broad as possible; sometimes a Pulley and Runner may be fasten'd into any Pile or Post, or Piece of Timber, that may be found in the River ready placed to your Hand, which to be sure is best, but that does not always happen.

The Advantage of this way of Trout catching, is, that by this Method you are sure to stand so, as not to be seen by the Trout till you are sure he is struck, and fast with the Hook, for the Line may be made so long that the Angler need not so much as come near to the Bank of the River, and if he requires a Hundred Yards of Line, it shou'd not be wanting tho' it were twice as much.

Another way has been very diverting and full of Sport, if they have but Success, namely, to turn a square Board a Drift in the Middle of the Current, having a Pulley, and Runners to it, as in the Case of the Block as above; this will serve not for one Haunt of a Trout only, but for many, as the Situation of things may present; for keeping one on one Side the River, and one on the other, with either Man one Line in his Hand, it is pul-  
led

led over from Side to Side, as they see Occasion.

As the Board need not be very large or thick, it is easy to see or feel when a Fish has taken the Bait; and no Sport of its kind can be more diverting, than to see the Board and the Fish pull and tugg at one another, sometimes the Trout pulling the Board about and carrying it up against the Stream, and cross the Stream, according as he thinks fit to run, and then the Board recov'ring it self, or the Fish being tir'd, it swims down the Stream again. A Bladder perhaps may do the same thing, as it is in the Case of the Pike, but then the Bladder is not so good a Blind to the Trout, who is shy and wary much more than the Pike, but the Board deludes him effectually.

These latter mention'd Ways of taking the Trout, are chiefly to be practis'd in the Summer Months, and hot Weather, for then it is that he leaves his Holds and close Retreats in deep Water, where he retires for Warmth and Quiet in the Winter; that is to say, quiet from Storms which disturb the Water, and Land Floods which foul and thicken the Stream, none of which are agreeable to him.

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But even in Summer too, if the Weather be exceeding hot, and by a great Drought the Springs and consequently the Streams run faint and low, the Trout as if he fear'd to be left upon dry Land, or to be surrounded so with Flats, that he cannot get out, and so be pounded as it were in some narrow Place, where there is not sufficient Water for his Safety; I say, as if he was apprehensive of these Dangers, and foresaw what he might be expos'd to, he retires in time to what we call *plain Deeps*, that is to say, to any Place in the Stream, (mark) not to Holes and Pits as in Winter, but to a deeper Channel.

And here the Angler ought to observe, that as a Hare sitting is sure to have a Meush or opening in the Hedge next her, which she flies to and makes her Escape thro' as soon as the Hunter cries his *Soho*, that is to say, has found her *sitting*; so the Trout, and 'tis the same of the Pike, they are sure when they lie thus at catch in the Stream, to have one of their Holds in View, that if they are disturb'd on any Occasion, they may fly thither as to a safe Retreat, and hither they are sure to fly if they take a Bait, or if they are struck with the Hook.

How-

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However, in excessive hot Weather, and when the River is very low, then you are sure to find the Trout in the deeper Stream, and laying your Bait to swim near the Ground, not just upon the Ground, you will hardly miss a Trout, if you take but the ordinary Rules of Angling, as to the Manner and Time of fishing, of which I shall speak by it self.

It is the Opinion of some, that the Chub and the Trout are always at Enmity one with another, and that they seldom swim in the same part of the Stream, at least not at the same time, and therefore if you catch a Chub, especially if you catch him in the Midstream, you may give over looking for a Trout there, for you are sure to find no Trout and Chubs together: It seems also, that the Chub is Master, that is to say, Conqueror, for tho' they are neither of them able to devour one another, yet they fight for their Food, and thrust one another away, and the Chub being the larger Fish, is sure to dispossess the Trout of his Place, as well as of his Prey, and particularly in the hot Summer Months; and this is one Reason why sometimes you find the Trouts in deep Water in very hot Weather, which otherwise would not be.

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The Trout also is a sporting merry kind of Fish, and plays and flutters about in the Water on several Occasions, and in particular Seasons, ranging and roving from Place to Place over the whole River like the *Dace* or *Dare*, who travel long Journeys in the Stream; on the other Hand, the Chub is a surly, heavy, melancholy Fish, apt to keep the same Haunt several Years, and lying still many Hours, nay sometimes several Days in a Place; some have said that they have found a Chub haunting one Pit or Hole six or seven or eight Year together; keeping Possession (as if it were his Freehold) by Force driving away all the large Fish, and even its own Progeny, to inhabit other Quarters. But this by the Way; as for the Trout, he wanders about, fixing his Station as Occasion presents, and shifting it again on every slight Occasion; and this is the Reason why, I say sinking a Log or Block of Wood, as was mentioned above, and forming a new Situation for him, easily draws him away from his former Tenement, and engages him to take up with that, as the next that offers for his Purpose.

As most Fish have a Time when they are, and a Time when they are not fit for Food,



Food, which we call being in Season, or not being in Season, so has the Trout also; there is a Time when he will not bite nor take a Bait tho' laid before him and in his Way, with the utmost Art; and so it is also, with most other Fish.

The Trout is in Season all the Summer half Year, that is to say, from *Lady Day* to *Michaelmas*, but in the Months of *April*, *May*, and *June*, the Trout is in its *Prime*; the Sign for this is, that their Flesh is of a deeper Red at that time, than at another, and the Spots on their Sides and Back plainer and more visible to be seen than at another time.

The properest time to fish for a Trout, is Morning and Evening; for from a *South East* to a *South West* Sun, that is to say, from nine in the Morning till three in the Afternoon, you may angle till you tire your self, but you will get no Fish, that is, no Trouts; possibly this may be like the feeding Time and chewing Time for the Ox, when if you offer him Grass or Hay, he will not accept of it.

However, even in this the Trout varies his Usage also; for at the Beginning of his Season and at the End of it, that is to say, in *March* and the latter End of *September*, you may angle for a Trout from

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an Hour after Sun rise, to an Hour before Sun set, and have good Sport, without any Recess.

After about ten Days in *October*, you ought not to fish for a Trout, or take them if they come to a Net; as to a Hook, there is no great Danger, nor should you take them in any time from thence to about ten Days before the Beginning of *March*, as above, for all that time the Trout is good for nothing.

In Spring and Fall the Trout bites best in warm, clear, and Sun shiny Weather; in the hot Months he bites best in the cool, and in cloudy Weather, and sometimes after the Water has been disturb'd and muddy, and begins to run clear again, then he comes abroad, as if he expected some Booty or something extraordinary.

If the River you fish in, lie so near the Sea as to have the Tide flow up into it, or especially if the Tide flows into it from another fresh River into which the River or Brook which you fish in empties it self, in such a Case, begin to fish at what the Watermen call young Flood, that is to say, at the first Turn of the Water, and fish up the River with the Flood, and the like again at the first Shoot of the Ebb, then fish back again, and you will not fail  
to

to have Trouts, if there be any in the Place : But in the Hight of the Flood, or in the latter part of the Ebb, you will make very little of it ; the Reason is obvious, for

1. When the Tide is up, the Channel is deep and broad, and the Fish scatter themselves about, perhaps feeding at large where they can best meet with Purchase ; the Depth also of the Water is uneven and uncertain, rising every Moment, so that you cannot keep the Bait at an equal Distance from the Bottom, also the Water is generally foul, and the Trouts fly from it.

2. When the Tide is ebbing, that is to say, after the first Run of it is over, the Fish are still dispers'd, some think they make down with the Ebb till they meet with the brackish Water, and that they drink or taste of that with Pleasure for a little while, but that then they grow sick of it, and fly up again in haste to the sweeter part of the Stream ; but these are GuesSES and Uncertainties, and no Judgment can be made exactly of it : Experience indeed shows, let the Causes be what they will, that at the first of the Flood and first of the Ebb, you may have good Sport in such Rivers, and afterwards  
none

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none at all ; and this is enough for us, I say whether we know the hidden Reasons of it or no.

The like sudden Motion of the Water, will help your Sport in Places where there is no Tide, but where the Water receives any sudden Motion, as in Rivers made navigable by Art, and where there are Sluices and Stops, or Wears and Locks, to raise the Water for the Use of the Barges ; when the Keepers of those Locks or Stops lets go the Water to give the Barges a Flash, (as they call it) to help them over the flat Grounds that are in their way ; if you follow the Flash, 'tis very seldom but you have good Sport with the Trouts, because as they feel the first Motion of the Water swelling and coming on, they come eagerly out of their Holes and Holds, expecting the Flash should bring something or other with it fit for their feeding ; and thus mistaking the Angler's Bait for the Prey they look'd for by the Flash, they are many times nabb'd in the Hight of their Feast.

Thus when a Mill has been stopt to keep up a Head of Water, for some time, for the Miller's Use, and is suddenly let go again ; follow the first breaking out of the Water below the Mill, and  
you

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you rarely miss of a Trout; whereas before, while the Mill kept up the Water, you would have no Sport neither above the Mill or below; for at such a time the Water above the Mill is still and deep, and you know not where to lay for him, and below the Mill it is so shallow that he is timorous and shy, and dares not stir or venture out of his Hold.

Trout fishing has this happy Particular in it for the Ease of those Anglers who have less Patience than others, namely, that you need not make above three or four Essays in one Place; for if you hear nothing of a Trout in three or four Trials, you may conclude, that either there are no such Inhabitants in that Place as you look for, or that if they are at home, they resolve to stay there, and will not come out to speak with you; that is to say, they won't stir or meddle with your Bait; so you have nothing to do but remove and try at another Place, and this removing I say, to the more impatient Angler, makes his want of Sport the less tiresome to him.

Sometimes it will happen, that you may have angled both at Ground, and with a Fly, and have had little or no Sport all Day, and yet your Labour not be all lost;  
for



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for if you come to the same Place the next Evening, and all the Night till Midnight, you shall seldom fail of Sport, and they will bite eagerly too; having perhaps found all the Baits you lost the Day before, and found no Danger in taking them; those Baits also being more agreeable to their Palates than what they usually find in the River; and this is a Proof that baiting the Croud the Day before you fish, is not a fruitless Expence, laid out upon no rational Prospect of Success; for Experience tells us, especially in Trout fishing, that it is otherwise, and that the Trouts will not fail to bite freely after it: But then the Fault is in coming too soon, indeed the Impatience of our Anglers is ordinarily the Reason of their Miscarriage, for they throw in their Bait just before they fish, or perhaps even while they are fishing, and expect the Trouts should come to it immediately; whereas the Trouts perhaps are safe in their Hold a Quarter of a Mile off, both above and below them; but you must give them time at least all Night, and then as they rove about up the Stream and down the Stream, they cannot fail to find it, and will dwell at it or about it all the Day following; so that unless you see other People going to fish  
before

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before you, it would be best of all to wait till the Evening of the next Day : This is a Secret of Value, in fishing either for a *Trout* or a *Salmon*; and the Caution is so just, that I leave it to the Experience of the ancient Trout Catchers, whether their Impatience in fishing too soon after their having baited the Ground, has not often defeated them, even till it has made them sick of Ground baiting in general, and they had left it off, as fruitless and to no purpose.

There is another Observation on the Trout, which must not be omitted; namely, of her Conduct in *white Water*; and because this is a kind of modern Term, and not of very publick Usage, 'tis needful to explain it : We call it *white Water*, when by hasty Rains the Rivers are swell'd Bank high, that is, to be just brim full, but not high enough to overflow the Meadows, for then it is call'd a Flood.

When the Rivers are thus Bank high, the Water is always thick and whitish, with the Washings of the Banks and Brooks, which bring down the dryer part of the Surface of the Earth with them; at this time the Current is always very strong, and stronger than when the Water

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ter gets more room by extending it self over the Meadows.

On these Occasions, as we cannot see the Fish, so the Fish cannot see us, and you may come boldly to the River Bank and even to the Edge of the Water ; but then the Trout does not care to bite on these Occasions, nor any other Fish, because the River is full of Food for them, washing down a great Variety of Dainties for them from the Shores and other Places, which had not been reach'd by the Stream before; it is at this time the Trout and several other kinds of Fish, are more in danger of being taken by the Net, than by the Hook ; for as they range promiscuously, scarce knowing where they are, they fall into the Snare, without being able to avoid it. At these times, they quit the greater Rivers, and shoot up every small Stream into little Rivers and Brooks, where-ever they can find them ; and here when they find the Waters slow and narrow, they seek out here and there for deep Pits and Holes, and in those they lurk for many Months together, till being discovered by the Plough Men and such People, they are taken by laving or lading the Pits, and throwing out the Water from them, and such other course un-

sport

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sport like Methods, without having any fair Play for their Lives; but if they escape these Dangers, they never fail to make their way down into the larger Rivers again.

In these Brooks also, they go up at other times to spawn, but be it for what it will that they go thus out of their ordinary way, they often meet with their Fate; and in this manner the largest and best Trouts are kill'd, and the Rivers in a manner emptied of them; so that where for many Years there have been great Quantities of Fish to be had, they have again for two or three Years together been quite void of Trouts, and no Sport to be had in them.

The Trout differs from most sort of Fish in the Season of casting their Spawn, for the other sorts of Fish spawn about *March*, or from *February* to *June* and *July*; the Trout spawns at *Martinmas*, or thereabouts; with this additional Observation, that the Trouts in some Rivers spawn earlier, and in some Rivers later than others, but all within fourteen or twenty Days over or under the time. The Female Trout is esteemed the best Meat, her Head is smaller, and her Body, or Breadth, larger than the Male, and her Flesh is of

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a brighter flame Colour than the Male, especially in *May* and *June*, which is the Prime of her Season.

There are some white Trouts, *viz.* whose Flesh is all white, and always so in the Prime of their Season, as well as at other times, and these are not only as good as the other, but rather better esteemed, because they are more rare to be found.

The Goodness of the Trout depends very much upon the Nature of the Soil which the River runs through, and from which the Water being ting'd, feeds and nourishes them in Proportion; so that we often find the Trouts poor and lank, and the Flesh pale and fleshy, in one part of a River, when they shall be fat, bright, thick, and full, in another part of the same River.

The Goodness of a Trout is to be judged of, very much, by the Size of the Head; if the Head be large and loose, the Fish is lean and poor, and good for little; whereas if the Head be small and firm, the Fish is good and in Health; and the Flesh will show it by its Colour.

The Trout has got some of the Slight which the Salmon is so much Master of, *viz.* of throwing it self out of the Water,  
and



and thereby leaping over Weirs and Stops Sluices and Dams, in the Rivers, but they do not leap so high nor essay so often as the Salmon, but give it over sooner and go away in search of some other place; and if it cannot pass, will spawn where she lies, to the great Benefit of the Anglers in that part of the Countrey.

The Trout will struggle a long while for its Life, after it is struck fast by the Hook; but if she is taken and brought out of the Water, her Courage fails, and she dies presently. The Trouts in *Wales* are esteemed as good as in most Parts of *England*, tho' there are very few chalky Waters, if any in that Country. It is difficult to determine, how many Years a Trout will live, but this is certain, and known by Experience, namely, that a Trout is at its full Growth in four or five Years, and that as when they are so, they are very good, so when they begin to be too old, they decline in Body; which they never recover, but pine away till they die; with this Remark also, that all the while they live in that declining Condition, the Head encreases and grows bigger, while the Body at the same time lessens and sinks, till at last they grow indeed monstrous, and look as ugly and frightful as they

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they did before beautiful, spotted and shining above all the Fish that swims.

*Directions for the manner of ordinary Angling for a Trout.*

There are some Disputes among the Artists at this Sport, whether it is better to have the Bait trail and drag along upon the very Ground, as it were under the Current, or to drive a little above the Ground, floating in the Water; it is acknowledged, both Ways are good, and in fishing with the running Line, there is no avoiding but that the Bait must lie upon the Ground, so that in that sort of fishing the Debate is at an end; but as in the other way of fishing, *viz.* with a Float, the Choice is in the Angler; I must give my Vote for the last Method, namely, to have the Bait lie near the Ground, as near as may be, but so as not to touch the Ground, but to drive with the Stream just free of the Ground, and so pass along.

This also must be the Case in the particular Methods of Art to ensnare and betray the Fish, as is mention'd above, such as Blocks of Wood, Pieces of Boards, Pulleys, and the like; for if they should let the Bait lie on the Ground, it would be apt  
to

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to hook and get fast to such things as might happen to lie at the Bottom of the River.

But there is also some Philosophy on my side in the Argument; for this latter way is more adapted to the Scituation of the Things, the Bait at some Distance from the Ground, *as it respects the Fish*, moves in a manner more fitted to discover it self, than when it lies flat on the Ground, and indeed more fitted to be taken by the Fish; for the Trout, which as before, is a greedy voracious Creature, flies at the Bait, which is a kind of Prize to him, with a furious and swift Motion, gorging it in an Instant; whereas if it lay on the Ground, it would be reasonable to judge he would bruise or wound himself in the Motion, as a Hawk too eager in pursuit of his Prey, stoops at it so violently, as to kill himself with the Blow.

The Motion is also more visible, as supposed to lie on a horizontal Prospect with respect to the Trout, who does not himself lie close on the Ground, but a little above it; and may be supposed much easier to perceive what moves in a Level with his Eye, than what moves below it, and consequently more out of his Sight.

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Upon the whole, I think he that lets his Bait drive a little above the Ground, suppose four or five, or at most six Inches, if the Ground be smooth and even, or a Foot where it is ragged and uneven, has in my Opinion, a great Advantage in fishing, and will catch two for one, more than he that with a running Line or otherwise, fishes at Ground, or with his Bait lying on the Ground. As for the Opinion that the Trout takes the Bait upon the Ground cautiously and softly, and not with that rapid Fury that he takes the Fly, or floating Bait, I answer,

1. *It is begging the Question*, the Fact is not prov'd, neither can it admit a Demonstration, at least I think so.

2. If it were so, then it confirms me in my Opinion, that it is the best way to keep the Bait floating, because certainly the Trout is most surely catch'd when it gorges the Bait with a furious and greedy Shoot or Stroke, taking it in whole, and swallowing it so too, without Caution, or nibbling at it, as on the Ground 'tis said to do, for fear of hurting it self. The Angler also is more certain when he strikes the Trout, for when the Fish has swallow'd the Bait down, and is run away with it, 'tis much surer Work to strike

strike at him then, and the Hook is much more likely to hold, than when he takes it in gently and cautiously, and keeps it in his Mouth, sucking and pouching it with a kind of Apprehension of it, and a Hesitation, as if he consider'd whether he should take it or no.

But to come to the Sport, there are several Ways to fish for a Trout.

1. With a prepar'd Bait.
2. With a Fly, or Insect alive.

1. *With a Bait*, and this is either 1. a Worm Bait, or 2. a Fish Bait. 1. a Worm Bait, and this is 1. at Ground, as above, with a running Line, the Bait lying upon the Bottom, and moving sometimes as the Stream may stir it, or as the Angler moves it, by drawing the Line with his Hand, or 2. by a Float buoying up the Bait, as in the ordinary way of Angling, only keeping the Bait at a little Distance from the Ground, not above four Inches to half a Foot, or thereabouts. 3. or by trouling, as you troul for a Pike; in which Case, your Bait swims at Midwater, and is ordinarily larger than in the other Cases: In this Method of trouling, it should be observ'd, that the Rules for trouling  
G for



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for a Pike, or for a Trout, are just the same, with some little Variation of the Bait only, as for a Trout, only that you sink the Bait a little lower in the Water in fishing for a Trout or Grailing, than in fishing for a Pike, the Trout generally swimming lower than the Pike.

2. You may angle for a Trout with a Worm, or with Fish; the ordinary Bait is the Worm, of which I shall speak at large in the Chapter of Baits; but some do, and it is not at all improper, angle with a Minnow, or a small Loach; this is never used but when you expect a very great large Trout, for the smaller Trouts will not bite at a whole Body of a Fish, or at least not at one so large: When you fish thus, you must also have a very large Hook; the manner of placing the Bait on the Hook, is just as in the baiting for a Pike, only that you must be sure to close or stitch up the Mouth of the Fish you bait with; and when you angle thus with a Fish, you must keep the Baitfish continually moving in the Water, drawing it with your Hand, not too and fro, but always one way, either up the Stream, or down, but chiefly up, or against the Stream, and always within a Foot of the Surface of the Water, chiefly  
at

at about half a Foot, but never above a Foot; also you must observe, that this angling is always in Midstream, and the sharper the Stream is, the better; for you now look for the Trout when in his Travels, and on a Journey from one part of the River to another; so that you only wait for him as the Highwayman does for a Stage Coach, to take him at an Advantage. If you fish in deep Water, it must be in a windy Day, perhaps he will bite there at such a time, but even that is doubtful also; this fishing is only in Spring and Fall, not in the four hot Months, if you do, it will be to no Purpose.

3. *With a Fly*, which is generally call'd dibbing, or dibbling, and is a very good Method, and oftentimes proves very successful; There are two sorts of Fly fishing, viz. the natural Fly, and the artificial or made Fly; 'tis the natural Fly that I am speaking of, when I name dibbing or dibbling for a Trout.

Seven Sorts of fresh Fish will bite at a Fly, and no more that I remember, 1. the Salmon, 2. the Trout, 3. the Grailing, 4. the Bleak, 5. the Roach, 6. the Chub, 7. the Dace.

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Angling with a prepar'd Bait is so necessarily spoken of in the several other Parts of this Work, that I shall at least omit it for the present, till I have spoken of those other Ways of Angling more particular to the Trout, and such is this of Dibbing.

Dibbing is a Sport generally perform'd either within two or three Inches of the Surface of the Water, or upon the Surface it self; dibbing on the Surface, is done with a natural Fly. The several sorts of Flies used on this Occasion, I shall mention by themselves; the most common, is that they call the Oak Fly, and the Grashopper.

It is manag'd with a long Rod, tho' not so large and strong as for the Pike, yet full its Length, and the Line about half the Length of the Rod, if the Weather be calm and quiet, but if it blows any thing hard, you must have the longer Line.

When the Fly is plac'd on the Hook according to Art, of which hereafter, you may cast it out into the Water, with but one Joint of your Rod, that as little of the whole Rod as possible may be seen, and so you retire gradually as you lengthen your Rod, by adding the other Joints to it, and be as much out of Sight your self  
as

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as you can ; if the River Bank be sloping towards the Field, so as you can stoop behind it, or lie down upon it, you wou'd find it very convenient : When you have cast in the Fly, you must keep it playing upon the very Top of the Water, or so near it, as now and then to touch the Water, and draw it along pretty swiftly up the Stream and down the Stream, as the Wind will permit you.

If you have a Sight of the Fish, as you perceive him to rise gradually near your Bait, then draw your Bait lightly over him, and if you are but out of his Sight, you will certainly take him, nay tho' you are not quite out of Sight, if you are but gone some unusual Distance from him, that he may not suppose you are concern'd about him.

But as this fishing is done when the Fish is almost always in Motion in the still Waters, so you must strike him nimbly, and just at the very Moment he takes it into his Mouth if you can ; for the Body of the Fly being very small and light, the Hook will prick him the sooner, and if he feels it before you strike, he will disengage himself before you are aware, and so you lose him.

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In this way of fishing, your Tackle may be stronger than when you fish at Ground, for not above an Inch of your Line is to be suffer'd to touch the Water at most, and ordinarily none at all, so that your Line may be three Hairs thick at the very Hook, or more if you find it convenient; also you may have more Occasion in this Work for a strong Line; for as by the Fly you sometimes take the largest Trouts in the River, so you can give them no time here to run off and on, and tyre and weaken themselves, as when you fish at Ground; but on the contrary, you must hold him in his full Strength, and perhaps he will give you some very hard Pulls, enough to break your Tackle, if it is not very strong. Some propose dibbing with a fine white Wire, such as they string the Harpsicord with, but I cannot approve that Method, at least not so as to recommend it, the Wire not being nimble and plyable enough for this Work; nor will the striking the Fish be so sure, the Motion being not so sudden and soft, or so well felt by the Hook, but would sooner snatch the Hook out of the Mouth of the Fish, than dispose it to take hold as it came along.



In this Fly Fishing, it is necessary to use two May Flies at a time, because they make the more Motion in the Air, and appear the fairer ; the manner of hooking them is thus : Take the first Fly, and put the Point of the Hook into the thickest part of the Body under one Wing, and then running it directly cross the Body of the Fly, let it come out on the other side of the Body, under or thro' the other Wing ; if it comes thro' the other Wing, draw that Wing gently off again, that it may be free, and play above the Body of the Fly ; then thrusting it home upon the Hook, put on the other Fly just in the same manner, only with the Head of the last Fly the other way ; so that the Head of one Fly lies one way, and the Head of t' other Fly the other way, and so it seems to the Fish to be but one Fly.

In this Posture, the Wings are all at Liberty above the Flies, and they will live on the Hook, and flutter their Wings above a Quarter of an Hour, especially if you do not let them go under Water at all, only just touch the Surface ; for if they dip into the Water, they will be strangled, and drown presently ; and when they die, you must take them off, and renew the Bait with two more.

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Others dib with an Oak Fly and a Cod Bait; in which Case, they put the Oak Fly first on the Hook, the Point of the Hook into his Body, just under his Throat and out at his Tail, and then spit the Cod Bait upon the Point of the Hook, after it comes out at the Tail of the Oak Fly; this is a Bait that seldom fails, you may also suffer this Bait to sink a little in the Water, about an Inch or two, never more.

This Method for baiting with a Fly, is proper to be observ'd with any other sort of living Flies, as well as those mentioned.

To these Directions, add this also, which some call a Secret, that after you have dibb'd with these Flies upon the Surface of the Water till they are dead, and you find the Fish will not rise, cut off the Wings of the Flies, and let them hang still on the Hook, and putting a bit of Lead to your Line, sufficient to sink the Bait, fish with the same Flies, about Mid-water, or within a Foot of the Ground; but it will not do at Ground, for your Line is too gross, and also your Line is not long enough to give him Play, as is necessary in all fishing for Trout near the Ground.

Ano-

Another thing must be observed, and it may pass for a general unexceptionable Rule in dibbing for a Trout; namely, that it must be always in clear Water, otherwise in white Water, or Water any way foul and thick, the Trout can no more see the Bait, than the Angler can see the Trout.

Hot calm Weather, or the Evening of a hot Day, is the only Season for this kind of fishing, and deep still Water better than the clear swift Streams; for tho' the Fish lie in those deep Pits, or in their Holds on the Sides of them, yet as the Water is clear, they see to the Top of the Water, and will rise out of their Retirements in hopes of their Prey; and this is the Reason why I said, as above, that oftentimes you catch the largest and best Trouts by this Method of fishing.

It is also to be observ'd, that after the Water has been thick, and when first it begins to be clear again, then is a good time for dibbing for Trouts, for then they begin to look out for Prey, which they could not do before; for thick white Water is to the Fish as a cloudy Air, or a thick Mist or Fogg is to us, that in the first we can see but a little way from us, and in the latter we cannot see Sun,

Moon, or Stars; so in the Water, when muddy, they can see nothing, or but a very little, and that very near them; and in the white Water, tho' they may see a little way, yet they cannot see out of the Water, so as to discern either the Angler or the Angle Rod; and therefore when the Water only begins to clear it self, you fish boldly and securely, and the Fish will bite boldly, not being able to see their Enemy.

2. The fishing with an artificial or made Fly, is much talk'd of, and the Directions, as well for the making, as managing the said made Fly, are very long and numerous. I refer the curious Artists to the Particulars by themselves. The Rules for fishing are much the same for the artificial Fly, as the natural, and the Seasons the same; for the artificial Fly is but the Mimick of the natural Fly, and therefore the Imitation must be used even as it is, namely, the Image or Representation of Nature.

It is a good Rule to judge of what particular Fly the Fish like at the particular Season when you are fishing; namely, to beat the Bushes which hang over the Water in the place where you fish, and there you will see what Flies lie on those Bushes  
and

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and fall into the Water at that time of the Year, by which you will find what Food the Fish chooses to live on at that Season.

If you are careful in choosing your Stand upon the Bank of the River, so as that you can stand at *Blye-Bush*, as the *Kentish* Anglers call it; that is to say, behind a Bush or Tree, you may then fish in a deep clear Water with a short Rod, not above two Yards long, and then as you will with the greatest Facility manage the Fly, whether it be natural or artificial, you will be the surer of Game.

*Of the Salmon.*

The Salmon is call'd the King of fresh Water Fish; but as the Salmon is something too big for the Anglers Sport, so it will take up the less of our Time in this Discourse; certain it is, tho' the Salmon be an exceeding large and strong Fish, growing sometimes to be three Foot long and more, and with so deep a Body, that they will sometimes weigh from fifteen to eighteen or twenty Pound Weight; yet they are often taken with Line and Hook, especially when they are gotten a great way up into fresh Rivers, and where



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they have not a great Depth or Compass of Water to play and wander in, nor abundance of Food for their Supply.

The Goodness and Excellency of this Fish is so well known, that it needs no Description, no setting off; its Flesh is so nourishing, its Colour so beautiful, its Taste so grateful, that it is no Wonder to hear that it is brought so many Miles, and at so great Expence, to *London*, and sells so dear when it comes there.

As for the Distance of Places from whence it is brought by Land Carriage, it has now of late Years outdone all that ever was known before; it was thought extraordinary that we had *Trent Salmon*, brought from *Nottingham* and *Darby*; and *Severn Salmon*, from *Gloucester* and *Worcester*, which are much of the same Distance and little less than an Hundred Miles from *London*.

But now by the extraordinary Diligence of the Carriers and Drivers, pushing forward and often changing Horses, to make them capable of such Service, we have Salmon brought from the River *Lone* or *Lune*, in *Lancashire*, and *Westmoreland*, and which is still more surprising, from *Carlisle*, on the River *Eden*, and *Salway Firth* in *Cumberland*; the last of which, is above

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two Hundred Miles : In which Carriage, they use such Expedition, as that they out-ride the Post several Hours, and bring their Fish in within two Days of its being taken out of the Water ; nay, some have driven so hard, as to undertake to deliver the Fish in *London* in one Day and a Night, that is to say, in about thirty Hours time.

This Fish, when it comes to *London*, is sometimes sold at half a Crown to three Shillings, and even to four Shillings a Pound ; which very well makes amends for the Expence of bringing, the Quantity also being very great that they bring.

The Salmon is a fresh Water Fish, because it is spawn'd in the fresh Water, and lives there when it is thriving, and in Season for Food ; but if he does not go into the Sea, or Salt Water, once at least every Year, he decays, and is good for little : For Example, when the young Fry are first able to swim, 'tis observable, they all make down towards the Mouth of the River where they first receiv'd Life, and there they gain their Bulk and Size, and that in so little time, that it is wonderful to think ; some say, as soon as a Gosling grows to be a Goose : But I must acknowledge, 1. That I am not of that  
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Opinion, and 2. That I believe it is impossible to those who say so, to convince us how they come to the certainty of it.

But be that as it will, we see they go out into the Sea very small, and come back into the Rivers very large; that they push into the Rivers in the Spring, which some say they do only to cast their Spawn, but others think it is to feed, and that they have no Fat in them, or are any thing wholesome, till they have fed some time in the fresh Water. But this cannot be always the Case, seeing they are taken in vast Quantities in the Salt Water it self, as in many Places in *Scotland* and *Ireland*, and particularly in the Mouth of *Tweed* in *England*, whence comes most of all the Salmon which comes pickled to *London*, and which is call'd *Newcastle* Salmon; the calling it *Newcastle* Salmon, is a gross Error, for 'tis taken at *Berwick*, in the Mouth of the *Tweed*, within a Mile of the Sea, from whence it is carried by Horses three Score Miles, to *North Shields* near *Tinmouth* Castle, and never comes nearer than seven Miles to *Newcastle*.

However, I am now to speak of the Salmon, as a fresh Fish, and as a Fish which sometimes comes to Hook, and is taken by the Angler.

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The general Notion of the Salmon, is, that they spawn about the latter end of *August*, or middle of *September*, having come into the fresh Rivers about Spring, that is to say, *March* and *April*; that he revels in the fresh Streams all the Summer, and returns to the Sea in *October*; that in the Sea they grow large, but that in the Rivers they only grow fat, and that in the Summer too; that if about *Michaelmas*, when they begin to make down towards the Sea, they chance to be stopp'd by Floodgates and Sluices, or any Impediment, so that they cannot find their way to the Sea, but are oblig'd to winter in fresh Water, they grow sick, and pine, are starv'd with Cold, for want of Depth of Water, and continue lean and unseasonable, meer Kipper, and without Taste, and in one Year decline and die.

It is said, our *English* Salmon is the best in *Europe*; and of *English* Salmon, the *Thames* Salmon is esteem'd the best; next that, the *Severn*; and next to that, the *Trent*.

But to treat of the Salmon, now as they are Sport for the Anglers, I must confine my self to the fresh Rivers, and the smaller clearer Parts of those Rivers where the said Fish are found; their Haunt in  
these

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these smaller part of the Rivers, is generally about *July* and *August*, when they come thither to spawn, and here we find 'em in the swiftest and most rapid Streams and in the clearest part of those Streams, especially on a gravelly, pebly, or chalky Bottom.

The Salmon does not lie like the Trout in the still Deeps, and in Holds, under Banks and Shelves, or under the Roots of Trees, but is generally travelling forward, pushing up the River, as if resolv'd to reach to the very Spring Head; and to this end he is generally found swimming in the main Stream, and in the deepest part of it, and usually in the Middle; they swim near the Ground, and you must lay your Bait accordingly, within half a Foot, or ten Inches of the Ground, but not upon the Ground, for they never feed at Ground.

As for the young Salmon call'd the Salmon Smelt, or Salmon Peel, they generally swim nearer the Top of the Water, and in the more gentle part of the Stream.

The Salmon will bite chiefly from the Middle of *April* to *August*; the proper time of Day for him, is about a *South East* and a *South West* Sun, one Point over or under; and the best Weather to fish for him,



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him, is a windy, rough, but Sun shining Day, especially if the Wind blow against the Stream.

When you have struck a Salmon, he plunges and leaps in the Water, and out of the Water, as if he was in a violent Passion, either of Rage or Fright; but he does not run away with the Line as a Pike or a Trout does; the young Salmons are tender jaw'd, and the Hook will frequently break away, and bring the Piece of the Jaw, on which it had laid hold, along with it; whether the Fish lives or dies after such a Hurt, that we cannot come to any certain Knowledge of; the Anglers therefore who have had Experience added to their Skill, frequently fish with a double Hook, or with two Hooks tyed together; that if one Hook break hold, the other may not fail.

All the Baits used in fishing for a Trout, are proper for the Salmon, except those in Fly fishing; for 'tis very rare that the Salmon is fish'd for with a Fly, or that he will bite at a Fly; if he will take a Fly, the same may be used, and in the same manner manag'd, as for a Trout, but the Sport is not worth the Patience.

In angling with a Worm Bait, some say he bites at Ground; but Experience tells

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tells me, that if you will have Sport at angling for a Salmon, you must lay your Bait about a Midwater, or something lower.

The larger Salmon of all, will bite at Minnows and Loaches, as the Trout-does, but you must fish with very strong Tackle then, for 'tis not a small or weak Line will manage him, and especially you will find it difficult to land him; for first, no landing Net will hold him, unless you have one with a deep Hose, made on purpose, and it must be a very strong one too.

I need say no more of the Salmon, for tho' he is well worth taking, yet he is so little in the Anglers way, and there is so much Difficulty in managing him, and he is so easily taken by a Net, that it may suffice to say, all the Methods of fishing for a Trout, are proper for a Salmon, only that the Tackle must be five fold stronger than that for a Trout.

The other Methods for taking a Salmon by Chambers, by Gratings, and by Nets, I have spoken of already, in the Beginning of this Work, and to that I refer.

It is observable, that the Salmon is chiefly pleas'd with a cool, or rather cold Climate, only that in the Winter, that  
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is to say, in the Extremity of Cold, he flies to the Sea, where he has Depth of Water to secure him from Weather; but in more *Southern* Latitudes, where the Summers are violent hot, and the Rivers may be said rather to boil than be warm, there only, we find no Salmon, which may be particularly also, because in those hot Countries the Rivers are frequently dry or low in the Summer, which is the time when the Salmon chiefly delights in the fresh Streams, and when they cast their Spawn; which being thus starv'd by the Drought, would be destroy'd, and so the Breed be extinct. But in the *Northern* Climates the Salmon abound, and even in *England*, the *Northern* Rivers are fuller of Salmon, than the *South*; such is the *Tweed*, the *Eden*, *Soleway Firth*, the *Firth of Tay*, and the like: whereas, the *Thames*, tho' the Salmon is good, and esteemed better than in the *North*, yet the Quantity is not near so great.

### *Of the Grailing.*

Mr. Cotton, the famous *Darbyshire* Author, who wrote *The Wonders of the Peak*, extols the Grailing, as a Fish superior to the Trout: The River *Dove*, which spring-  
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ing out of the high Peak Hills in *Darbyshire*, runs into the *Trent*, a little below *Dovebridge*, between *Darby* and *Burton* upon *Trent*, is particularly famous for this Fish ; and excepting the *Hodder* in *Staffordshire*, the *Derwent* in *Yorkshire*, and the *Trent*, I know no River in *England* that has any of them, or but very few ; nay, the *Trent* it self, tho' the *Dove* empties it self into it, yet has but few *Grailing* ; and I am of Opinion, has none, but such as being driven down in the Winter Floods, out of the *Dove*, cannot find their way back again.

It is a Fish much like a Trout, only does not grow so large ; nor is it spotted as the Trout ; when 'tis large, 'tis call'd an *Umber*, when middle siz'd, or small, a *Grailing* ; just as the large Jack is call'd a Pike, and the small Pike is call'd a Jack.

They are not like the Trout or Salmon, out of Season half the Year, but when ever you can catch him, he is good to eat, only the Prime of his Season, is about *Christmas*.

It is observable, that at the time of his being so in Prime, as above, he is black about his Head, his Gills, and the Lift of his Back ; his Belly of a dark Grey, and dappled

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dappled with black Spots, which look very beautiful; his Flesh is firm, white, and cleaves like the Salmon, has an excellent Flavour or Taste, and is very wholesome; He is thought to be a Species of the Trout, but does not grow so large, the biggest being never above eighteen Inches long.

He is a swift sprightly Fish, swims like an Arrow from a Bow, is a fair Biter, but not so voracious, eager, and ravenous, as a Trout; and when once you have him fast upon the Hook, he makes no Dispute, but yields, is dead hearted, and you have him without any tugging or pulling: His Teeth are in his Throat, which makes him apt to get off of the Hook again, when you think you have him safe.

He differs in many things from a Trout, which relate to angling for him; *viz.* First, he swims in the Middle of the Water; so that you must never angle at Ground, that is to say, to let the Bait drag on the Ground; for he does not feed at Ground, he lies loose, and is apter to rise at a Bait, than to fall, therefore it is that he bites well at a Fly, whether natural, or artificial.

He feeds just as the Trout feeds, tho' one deeper in the Water than the other, and therefore the same Bait that is good for



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for one, is always good for the other; and we fish for him with the same Tackle, and generally speaking, in the same Manner, only the Grailing as above, does not bite at Ground, as the Trout does, and the Bait must be laid accordingly.

As the Kinds are so much alike, and the Baits used, and manner of fishing for them, so alike, it would be losing time to say any thing more of the Grailing, or of Directions to be given for fishing for him, but refer the curious Angler back to the Directions given already about the Trout fishing.

In general, the Grailing may be catch'd by angling, troulung, or dibbing, all one as the Trout, and in the very same manner, except only as before excepted.

*Of the Chub.*

The Chub is not much esteem'd for his Flesh, but very much for the Sport of fishing for him; in which there is as much Variety, as in any other Fish in the River, and especially when he is full grown; for he will grow to a bigger Size than any Fish in the River, of so deep a Body, except the Salmon, the Pike, and the Trout, which are indeed longer, but the Chub  
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is a larger Fish when overgrown, *as we call it*, than either Tench or Carp.

Nor do I think they do the Chub Justice, when they under rate him in the Dish, where, if Mistress Cook plays her part, it would be very hard, even to a nice Palate, to distinguish him from a Carp, unless the Eater be told of it before, especially if the Chub be dress'd fresh out of the Water.

The Head of the Chub is excellent good Meat, and is as much beyond that of a Carp, as the Body of the Carp can be beyond that of the Chub.

His Spawn also, is a rich and delicious Dish; tho' it would seem a kind of wilful Murder to kill the Chub when the Spawn is so near its Perfection, it being no less than wilful destroying ten Thousand Chubs for one.

The Chubs till they are very large, generally keep together, and where you find one Chub, you seldom miss of finding more; for like the Barble, when they choose a part of the River to abide in, they hardly ever change their Habitation. But they are none of the best princip'd People for their Honesty; for if they like any particular place in the River, let the former Inhabitants be who they

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they will, Trout, Barble, Pearch, or any thing but the Pike, they make no Conscience of driving them out, and taking Possession for themselves. Hence it often happens, that in a Hole long famous for Trouts, you shall find Chubs, and when once you find a Chub there, you may save your Labour of fishing there for any more Trouts, for you are certain to find none; the Chub having routed them all out, the latter being the stronger, and more violent Fish by far. Thus the stronger dispossess the weaker, of their Right, in the finny, as well as in the feather'd World.

The Chub loves a deep Channel, a large River, a Clay Shore, and a loomy Sand at Bottom; but especially where the Water is over-shaddow'd with Trees, dark and black, like Night; in such Deeps, you seldom miss of a Chub, but then 'tis very difficult throwing in such Places, unless you can cast your Hook from the opposite Shore, or from a Boat.

In hot Weather, in such Holes as those, they will lie close together, as it were, sunning themselves near the Top of the Water, and they will then take the Fly, whether natural or artificial; so that they are caught by dibbing, as was directed for the Trout: And as they bite with  
far

far less Caution than the Trout, they afford the Angler very good Sport.

In warm Weather, the Chub is caught by angling at Midwater, and as the Weather grows colder, he sinks lower; so that in very cold Weather you must fish for them at Ground; and this is a constant Rule, and may be depended upon.

When the Weather is hot, and they lie at the Top so close together *as is said above*, they are frequently a sudden Prey to the Casting Net, which I look on as unsportsman like an Exercise, as poaching and shooting is among the Hares; for it destroys the Chub, which otherwise would afford good Diversion to the Angler; and that which is the worst in this Case, is, that the Casting Net Poachers, as they generally get the largest and best Fish, so if they take small or great, they kill all that comes, by which the Fry is destroyed, and those that were coming on to supply the place of the large Fish, are kill'd when they are but of small Value: Also 'tis the same thing with them in other kinds of Fish, as well as this of the Chub.

The Chub is never out of Season above a Month or two at most; that is to say, in *February*, being a Month before they spawn; and in *March*, which is the  
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Month in which they cast their Spawn; for in the Beginning of *April* they are in Season again, and very good Meat: The Prime of their Season, is indeed, in Winter; for being well fed all the Summer, they will be very fat, and their Fat by Winter is well digested, and solid, pleasant, and nourishing.

They are not so voracious and ravenous as the Trout, or as the Pike, but 'tis said, they eat much more; and as they feed largely, they will be fatter than a Trout, or even than the Pike it self.

This is observ'd in its biting, for the Chub will bite at a greater Variety of Bait than any other Fish; indeed, nothing comes amiss to him: He will take natural or artificial Baits; NATURAL, as Worms, Cod bait, Flies, Moths, Bugs, Bees, Wasps, Hornets, Beetles, almost any thing; and ARTIFICIAL, as Paste, made of the Brains or Pith of the Back Bone of an Ox or Cow; Paste made of Flower, and the Fat of any eatable Creature; peel'd Malt, or Wheat boild soft, and made up with Wheat Flower; also he will bite at soft Fruit, such as Raspberries, Mulberries, Blackberries, and almost any thing that is either sweet or soft, and that will but hang upon the Hook.

Also



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Also the Chub loves a large Bait; so that if you hang two or three kinds of Baits on together, tho' the Sorts be of different kinds, he will take them down all together; for example, a Fly, an Oak Worm, and a Piece of Paste, he likes them all, and will take them all together; but then you must observe too, that as he bites without Caution, so he is taken without Art; for if you can but find him, he is the easiest Fish to catch in the whole River; for he neither sees the Line, or the Rod, or the Angler, or at least if he does, he takes no Notice of them, but, as if he invited the Man to the Sport, he will bite, as I may say, before his Face; nay, he will, as it were, take it out of his Hand; for when he swims high, as above, if you throw him in loose Bait, he will take it, run away and pouch it, and come again for more, as a Dog or a Cat does when you feed them by Hand, till at last you cast in your Hook with a large Bait, which he takes as familiarly as the rest; and you need strike him but gently, for he takes the Bait in so effectually, that you are almost sure of him, if he does but bite.

After he is hook'd, you have but little Trouble with him, and which is strange,

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the large Chubs are kill'd, or give over struggling, sooner than the small; for the latter will struggle and pull so, that sometimes you are oblig'd to give them a loose and let them go away with the Bait, but 'tis never above once or twice, and then you bring them to Hand again with Ease.

You must be very careful of landing a Chub when you have hook'd him, for if he be a Fish of any Size, he is very heavy, and if he struggles at all, it is just when he touches the Bank, when he is apt to give one great Flounce; and if you attempt to pull him up by the Strength of the Line, and the Bank be any thing steep, you will be in great Danger of his breaking away, unless your Tackle be very strong; you must therefore be always provided with a good Landing Net when you fish for a large Chub, and with that you will easily take him up.

When I speak thus of the Chub being so easy to take, and so ready to bite at almost any thing you can bait with, you must understand this to be meant of the Summer time only, and the hottest part of Summer too; for as in the Winter the Chub is fat and well fed, so in the Winter too they are most dainty, and not so easily

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ly brought to bite. The way to fish for him in the Winter, is by a Ledger Bait, as they call it, that is, by a Bait laid upon the very bottom Ground; for there he feeds, and there he lies all the cold Months, that is to say, *November, December, and January*, and then as he is not hungry, so he is the nicer in his Diet; and you must bait with somewhat that particularly pleases his Palate, or he won't meddle with it.

In these Months, the best Bait for a Chub, is a bit of old rotten Cheese, or a bit of fat Bacon, or a Paste made up of both together, which is an excellent Bait; also he likes well a young Lamprey, or young Greg, but it must be when they are very small; as also the Dew Worm, and large Red Worm, if well cleans'd, that they bear a good Colour.

In the Summer, besides what is mentioned above, the Chub will bite at a Snail, or Slug, cut open in the Belly, that the white of their Flesh may appear; also at the large Colewort Caterpillar, or Collyflower Caterpillar, but not the green Caterpillar: He will likewise, if he be a large Fish, bite at a Minnow, or Loach, and at a Bulhead; as also, at a Frog, if not too big. But then when you bait

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thus, you must not expect a Chub of less than three Pound Weight, and upwards.

When in hot Weather the Cattle go into the Rivers, not only to drink, but to cool themselves, and to that end stand still in the Water, as they will sometimes do several Hours together, and consequently dung in the Water several times; this will bring the Fish to the place, so that if you angle there presently after the Cattle are gone, you will very rarely miss of Sport, and especially of a Chub, if there are any near the place.

Some therefore will purposely cause the Cattle to be driven into the River, where they can find a proper place to fish in, and where they know the Chubs lie near, and so, as it were, bait the Ground before hand; *and 'tis a very good way*: But on this Occasion, the Angler must provide good strong Tackle, for 'tis Odds but they take as large a Chub as any in the River.

It is observable of the Chub, when he lies on or near the Top of the Water, *as I have said before*, sunning himself; I say 'tis observable, that at the first sight of the Shadow of the Angler, or of the Angle Rod, he will suddenly sink down to the Bottom of the Water, as if in a Fright,  
but

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but then he will as suddenly and certainly come up again ; and he would do thus not only for a Line or Angle Rod, but even for a Bird flying over him, suppose it to be but large enough to cast a Shadow in passing : When he comes up again near the Surface, he lies sailing too and again for Prey, till any thing offers, as before. But while he lies sailing thus, you may throw the Bait in securely, as I said above, and he will take it without Fear ; when he has it, he sinks again, unless you strike him, and if it be a Bait without a Hook, he comes up again for more, but if with a Hook, you strike him, and bring him up whether he will or not.

When you are dibbing for a Chub, you must be more cautious than when you are angling ; and if you dibb carefully, you shou'd stick your Angle Rod fast in the Ground, that he may not perceive it to move about, and let the Bait hang over the place you expect him in, about a Foot above the Water ; then when you see him rise again, let fall the Bait (without removing the Angle Rod) about six Inches before him ; if you are oblig'd to remove the Angle Rod, do it with a steady Hand, and slow as a Snail, and he will take the Bait without Fear : On the other Hand,



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when you find he has taken the Bait, and sinks with it, you may strike him without Fear.

*Of the Carp.*

The Carp is a noble Fish, whether we regard the Beauty of his Figure, or the Excellency of his Flesh; as the Salmon is call'd the King of River Fish, so the Carp is call'd the Queen of the Rivers, or rather shou'd be call'd, the Queen of the Fish Pond.

When the Carp is grown to its full Size, which we may call sixteen to twenty Inches, which is the utmost of its Growth, a Brace of such are fit for the Table of the King, and I once saw a Brace of such sent as a Present, from a certain Lord, to a certain Earl, a Prime Minister of State, and receiv'd with the utmost Satisfaction; the Servant who brought them having a Piece of Gold given him as a Reward, and the Fish sent immediately to the Sovereign.

When the Carp is thus grown, his Scales are large and shining, of a dark yellowish Colour, and his Belly yellow as Gold; he is deep Bodied, as the Chub,  
and

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and thick, but the Chub will, if full grown, be rather the larger of the two.

'Tis remarkable, that the Carp is fuller of Blood than any Fish the Rivers produce, the Salmon it self not excepted; and not only so, but the Blood is of a richer Quality, and the Taste of it exceeding luscious; this is the Reason why the Cooks choose it to assist in the dressing, and by stewing the Creature in the Blood, the whole Mass of its Flesh receives a Tincture, or Flavour rather, of the luscious Taste.

The Spawn of the Carp is exceeding rich and good, and may be divers Ways prepar'd, so as to be a most exquisite Sauce, or rather a rich and picquant Food; some say 'tis the finest Eating in the World.

It is remark'd of the *Jews*, that tho' they love *Caviare*, yet they dare not eat of it; because all Fish that have no Scales, are an Abomination to them, being forbidden by the Law of *Moses*; and the Sturgeon having no Scales, they will not touch the *Caviare*, which is the Spawn of the Sturgeon; but to make themselves amends, they buy the Spawn of the Carp, which, as they manage it, makes excellent *Caviare*; and as the Colour is a bright red,

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it is said to excel that of the Sturgeon. The *Jews* of *Venice*, and at *Leghorn*, buy it of the *Italians*, and give a great Price for it too.

But in *England*, our nicest Cooks make a Dish of it, not a Sauce; and it is not easy to describe how rich, and luscious, and fine it eats.

The best Carps in *England* are said to be in *Suffex*; but they do not tell us whether they are found in the Rivers, or in the Gentlemens Ponds; if they mean in the Rivers, they have really so few Rivers in *Suffex*, and those so very small, that the Quantity cannot be great: For 'tis observable of *Suffex*, that the Rivers of that County rise all within it self, and running directly *South* to the Sea, have so little a way to go before the Salt Water meets them, that there is very little Course capable of breeding a Fish so large as a Carp; and as to the Tide, the Carp abhors the Salt Water, and will not so much as come, where it is in the least Brakish. *Suffex* is a long County, stretching from *East* to *West* along the Sea Shore, for above three Score Miles, but is no where above twenty or twenty five Miles broad. The chief Rivers, are the *Rother*, which runs into the Sea at *Rye*; the *Peven*, which

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which runs in at *Pemssey*, or *Pevensea*; the  
which enters at *Lemes*; the  
*Stein*, at *Shoreham*; the *Arrun*, at *Ar-*  
*rundel*; and the *Lavant*, at *Chichester*:  
these are all small Rivers, and of short  
Course, and slow: The *Arrun* and  
the *Rother* are the chief, and have some  
Carp that are very good, but the Number  
of Fish must be few. But if they mean  
the Fish in the Gentlemens Ponds, I must  
acknowledge, the Soil being a fat, marly  
Clay, in most Places, is very rich and  
suitable to the Taste of the Carp; and  
the Carps of *Sussex* may be very good, as  
the Mulletts of *Sussex* are the best in the  
World.

But to return to the Carp it self, most  
of the Gentlemen in *England* who have  
the Conveniency of Ponds, have excellent  
Carp, and some of our Rivers have very  
good ones also; as for Instance, the Ri-  
ver *Lea* near *London*, the River *Ouse* at  
*Bedford*, and the River *Nyne*, which runs  
from *Northampton* to *Peterborough*, and se-  
veral others.

They tell us a Story of the Carp, that  
one Mr. *Mascal*, an *English* Merchant, of  
*Genoa*, brought the first Carps into *Eng-*  
*land*, and that he brought them not from  
*Italy*, but from *Spain* from *Bilboa*, and  
that

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that this was in the Year 1524. in the Reign of King *Henry VIII.* from whence came that old *English* Distich.

*Hops, Reformation, Carps, and Beer,  
Came into England all in one Year.*

The Hops it seems came in from *Flanders*, with the Art of Brewing, when the Tyranny of the *Spanish* drove the *Flemings* over to *England*, from the Terror of the Inquisition; but all this was rather in Queen *Elizabeth's* Time, than in *H. VIII.* but to let that pass, from whence soever the Carps came, they have thriven very well here, and we are said now to have as good a kind, as any place in the World, *Italy* excepted; where 'tis said, they outdo us, both in Bulk, and Fatness.

Some talk of both Tench and Carp taken in the *Irish* Sea, and about *Carrickfergus*, and off as far as the Isle of *Man*; but I see many Reasons not to give Credit to it, because upon all the Experience I have had of the Carp, they will not live in the Salt Water. They may have some other Fish which they call a Carp, and which may resemble a Carp, but it cannot be the true kind of Carp which we are now treating of, which is so far from  
being



being found in the Sea, that 'tis very rarely found in any Rivers now, except as above.

The Carp loves a hard, Clay Bottom, not a soft ouze or Mud, by no Means; but they choose out a solid Clay, especially a blue Clay, like that which the Pot Makers use; they lie always in the Deeps, and near the Bottom, and are not easily rous'd from their Retreats: They seek the stillest Streams, and avoid all rapid Currents; nor are they found in the Middle of the Stream, where ever they are; but in quiet Holes, in the Bites or hollow part of a Reach, or Turning in the River, where the Stream setting off to the opposite Bank, leaves a kind of still Pit, or deep Hole, with little or no Motion.

It is from this particular Quality in the Carp, that they thrive better in a Pond, than in a River; because they are not subject to be disturb'd by Winter Floods, or violent Motions of the Waters.

They love to harbour under the Shade of Trees hanging over the Banks, and among green fresh springing Weeds; but forsake those Weeds when they grow old and black. 'Tis observable, that if you go and cut away the Weeds in any place  
where

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where the Carps used to lie, they will forsake the place, and not return in many Months, perhaps not at all, till the Weeds are grown again, and come out green: For 'tis certain, they feed among these Weeds, by sucking the Juice out of the Reedy part of the Weeds when they first shoot out. If therefore, you cut the Weeds away, you destroy their Food, and they remove to a place better furnished for their Supply.

Nor will they come near a Boat, either in Pond or River; and this is their great Security in those Rivers which are navigable, and which are large enough for Barges and Boats to pass and repass; for those People generally carrying Casting Nets with them, and knowing all the best Holes and Haunts in the River, generally kill great Quantities of the best Fish, but seldom or never take a Carp.

In a Word, the Carp is a wary, subtle Fish, not easily surprized, and is therefore call'd, the WATER FOX, and not undeservedly; he will not come near to any place where he finds the Water put into any violent Motion; if a Boat stirs in the Pond where the Carp is, you may angle till you spend all your Patience, you shall kill no Carp, they are so wary and fearful,

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ful, that they are not to be taken, but by the stillest and quietest Methods; nothing that ruffles the Water in the least, must be done. And as the Carp is the Water Fox, so he must be as subtle as a Fox that fishes for him, or he will never have any Sport.

They breed better in Ponds also, than in Rivers; but then it must be in Ponds that lie warm, and surrounded with Trees, and sheltered from the cold Blasts of Northerly and Easterly Winds; chiefly the Carp loves deep Marl Pits, where the Marl having been dug out and carried away, the Pits are fill'd with Water, meerly by their Depth, either from Springs, or heavy Winter Rains, when being once fill'd, no Summer Drought can exhaust them. In such Ponds, the Marl sweetning and fattening the Water, they grow fat and thrive exceedingly, and yet the Bottom is preserv'd from Mud and Filth, by the Nature of the Earth; for they breed not so kindly if the Pond be foul'd with Mud, or encumbered with Weeds. It is observ'd, that in those marly Ponds, or blue Clay Bottoms, the very Water will nourish a Carp, without any other Food, which is not so in gravelly or sandy, or muddy Ponds; the latter  
makes

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makes the Carp sick, and rather poisons than feeds him.

Yet they will not always grow fat in the Ponds where they love to breed ; and therefore Gentlemen who are nice Breeders of Carp, take out the young Carp from the Store Ponds, and put them into other Ponds more proper for feeding them.

If the Pond or River they are in, is agreeable to them, they will spawn three times in a Year, sometimes four times, beginning with the Month of *May* ; by which Means they encrease more than any other Fish whatever, except a Herring, and a Mackrel ; some say they encrease ten Thousand Fold every time they spawn, which is wonderful indeed ; but then 'tis hard to give an Account what becomes of the young Fry, for that no such Numbers are ever found in the best Store Ponds that are.

But there is still a greater Wonder attending them than that, namely, that sometimes when a Pond is full of Carp, nay overstock'd with them, they shall, as it were, all on a sudden disappear, and not one be left, tho' the Pond having been duly stak'd, they could not be fish'd out ; and as for poisoning or otherwise killing them,

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them; they would then have been seen floating on the Water.

What Account can be given of this, I know not, neither is it my Business here to determine; possibly it may be some Distemper which affects them, and infects them, and them only, and causes them when they die to sink to the Bottom, and there perish and decay; but I do not say that it is so, all other Fish swimming on the Top of the Water when they are dead, and the Carp also, when they die in any ordinary way.

They live, (that particular Incident only excepted) to a great Age, from ten to forty Year, and still contrary to the Pike and several other Fish, the older and the larger they are, the better; and the fatter they are, the more delicious is their Flesh. It is also said, that they grow in Bigness to the End of their Lives; tho' I never heard of any that ever saw a Carp above two Foot long; but they will be then exceeding deep in the Body, and thick.

The Male Carp is esteemed better than the Female, and some say the white Carp is better than the yellow; but I must acknowledge, that I think otherwise, and that the yellow Fish is both the fattest,  
and



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and the sweetest. They begin to spawn at three Years old, and will hold it till thirty Years, as has been prov'd by Experiment.

There can no Reason be assign'd for it, that I ever met with, but 'tis alledg'd, that a Carp will not bite in the River, so that no angling is to any purpose there; but that in a Pond they will bite freely: That the last is true, Experience proves; but as to the first, I can only say that it is true they do not bite freely in the Rivers, because they are so often disturb'd; but some Carp have been taken in the Rivers too, tho' very rarely. 'Tis generally said, that the River Carp are the best, which I see no Reason for, except it be, that they are so rarely to be taken out of the Rivers.

If you resolve to angle for Carps, you should bait the Ground very well the Night before, and this you may do with several Things; as with the Raspings of Bread, made into small Lumps, and moistn'd to a Paste, either with Hogs Blood, or with the Liquor of a Pot, in which a Piece of fresh Veal has been boil'd, or with Grains not above half brew'd out, or with Ground Malt; but the latter will not sink to the Bottom readily,

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readily, and therefore may blow away with the Wind, or drive with the Water, to another part of the Pond before it sinks, and so cheat you; to avoid which, mind which way the Wind blew when you first threw it in, and fish that way, beginning where you intended to begin, and you will soon find where your Evening Bait grounded.

In angling for a Carp, you must be sure to keep out of sight, and move your Rod as little as possible; for his Eyes are always open, and he is so very vigilant, that if he sees the least Twig stir, he is gone: Nor will he return again like the Chub, but if once he sees you, you shall be sure never to see him, that is to say, not that time.

Early in the Morning, or late in the Evening, are the nicest Times to fish for a Carp; tho' he will bite all Night long in the hot Weather, and when the Twilight is in the Air, all Night; the Reason is, because then he can see the Bait; but if the Night is dark, he will very rarely bite.

When you strike him, it must be with a smart, strong Hand; but as soon as you feel you have him at Hook, you must let him go as you do with a Pike, for he is a  
strong,

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strong, heavy Fish, and will tear all to Pieces if you do not give him Play: He will also struggle longer than either Pike or Trout, and sometimes if he is not hook'd by the Jaw, but in the Throat, he will haul back till you almost draw his Entrails out at his Mouth: He is in short, as bold and stout when he is taken, as he is wary and timorous before; and at last, when you have as it were, tir'd him, and you wou'd think he was dead, you must be very careful how you land him; for he will then make as it were, his last Efforts, and will not quit the Water without struggling to the utmost, for his Life.

He lies as the Chub does, about Mid-water, but higher or lower, as the Weather is hotter or colder; when you fish for him, you must use a Float of Quil, for he will not bear the Sight of any thing larger, and a fine, but very strong Line; in hot Weather, they will bite at a good large *Lob Worm*, just at the Top of the Water, as the Trout bites at a Fly; but the best Baits for a Carp, are good sweet Pastes, made according to Art, of which in its place. A noted Angler has left it, as a Secret in angling for Carp, that you should take a little Bit of Scarlet Cloth dipt in Oil of Petre, or the Rock, and  
place

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place it just above the Hook, with a Bait of Gentles below upon the Hook ; I name it, because 'tis directed, *as I say*, by a celebrated Angler : But I cannot say I ever saw it tried with any Success ; the Scarlet should be not above half an Inch square, or thereabouts.

In a Word, when you fish for a Carp, your principal Care must be, not to be seen, but if possible, to get behind some Tree, or Stump, or Bush, from whence you may securely cast your Line ; or if the Bank be bare of Trees, then lie down flat on the Ground ; some will carry Blinds over Night, and set them on the Bank of the Pond, or the River, where they are to angle ; but I can assure them, that if the Carp has been us'd to the place, and sees something stand up, which was not there before, he will be as shy of the Blind, as he would be of the Angler, unless it has stood there some time ; the best Blind therefore, would be to cast up a little Knoul or Heap of Earth, on the Bank, about two or three Foot high, not more, and pretty long, and parallel with the Bank, that it may not seem a new thing, sticking in a few very low Bushes on the Top of it, all the Length, just such as are to be seen on the rest of the Bank,  
and

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and no other; behind this, the Angler may lie secure, and may so contrive it, as to have a loop Hole or two in it, to peep through, and if need be, to thrust his Rod out at.

As soon as the Fish has taken his Bait, and he has struck him, the Angler may then show himself as he pleases, for the Fish is sure to fly to the farthest opposite side of the Pond, or River, or to the next Hank of Weeds; and he must let his Line run out its full Length, if requir'd, and then bestir himself to draw him gently out again, if he can; letting him run again very nimbly, as soon as he feels him pull again, and so several times after one another, till by Degrees he will feel him tire, and decline in Vigor, and so at last, by little and little, come to Land, like a Dog in a String; then be sure to stand ready with the Landing Net, or you may lose all when you thought your self most secure.

*Of the Tench.*

The Tench is the Carp's younger Sister, and oftentimes they are Companions in the same Pond: The Tench is call'd, the Physician of the River; for the Slime,  
or



or what else it may be call'd, upon his Surface, is of such a sanative Quality, and so balsamick, that if another Fish be hurt or wounded, if she can swim close to a Tench, and rub her self against his Side, she shall be heal'd.

This may be true or not be true, as you please, for it seems more difficult to know, than to believe it; and the Difficulty, or rather Impossibility, of coming at the Truth of the Fact, makes the Belief of it the more doubtful and difficult: But this part of it is manifest, and has been proved by Experiments made, that if you take a Tench wounded with a Spear, or otherwise, if not too much hurt to live, or if you wound her lightly with a Knife, and put her into some Water of the same Pond she came out of, the balsamick Influence of its own Slime, shall heal the Wound, even to Admiration. But this is by the way.

The Tench is often in the same Pond with the Carp, and will live very well where the Carp lives; but the Tench will also live and thrive too, where the Carp would not live, I mean in foul, dirty, and muddy Water; hence he loves Ponds better than Rivers, and muddy Pits better than both; and this is the Reason why the largest Tench in *England* are found in  
the

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the Isle of *Ely*, in the Dikes, and artificial Dreins there, where the Water often stagnates and stinks for want of a free Channel Course; and where the Bottoms are moorish and soft, so as a Pike may be run down to the Head with very little Obstruction; here 'tis very frequent to take Tench from fourteen to twenty Inches long, and thick to a Wonder; their Flesh also fatter, I will not say wholsomer, than in any Rivers whatever. And from this part of the Country, they are by an extraordinary Method, in large Fats of Water, brought by Land Carriage in Waggon to *London* Markets; as are also, several other large Fish, particularly Carp, Eels, and some Pike: The Water is renewed as they see Occasion, at the Inns where the Waggon lodge; and the Casks have large Flaps, like the small Wicket of a Lock Floodgate, to shut down and lock at Night, to prevent the Fish being taken out, and is laid open a Days when they travel, to give the Fish Air.

It is remarkable of the Tench, more particularly than of the Carp, that in some Ponds they will breed most wonderfully, but will never grow to any Size, tho' they were to live there twenty Year; whereas, take them out and put them in-  
to

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to fresh Ponds, of a differing Soil, they will grow exceedingly ; and on the other Hand, in those Ponds where they grow so large, there they will not breed freely, if at all : But in the Places I mention'd above in the Isle of *Ely*, particularly in *Whittlesea Meer*, they both breed and feed large, in the same Water.

The Flesh of the Tench bears some Scandal, as if it was both ill tasted and unwholsome ; that he tastes of the Mud which he came out of, and that his smell is like the Smell of stagnated Ditches : But I must take Leave to differ from them, and observe, that it is generally owing to the Ignorance of the Eater, or of the Taker ; namely, by killing and eating him when he is out of Season : Then indeed he will eat unfavoury and ill tasted, and so will any other Fish, even the Salmon it self.

The Tench is a full siz'd, deep bodied Fish ; he has large Fins, and full Eyes, with a red Circle round them ; he has Scales, tho' they are very small and smooth, so that most People think he has none ; but 'tis evident, by the Hardness of his Outside, which is sometimes so hard, that 'tis as if the Fish were inclosed in a Shell ; his Eyes are of a Gold Colour,  
I and

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and he is barb'd at either Side his Mouth; if the Flesh of a Tench excels at any time, 'tis when he is cur'd and pickled, like a Sturgeon, when, he eats as firm, and cuts as white, but in my Judgment, exceeds the Sturgeon very much, in Relish and Tenderness; but this, *I say*, must be when the Fish is very large, and full grown.

They spawn in the hottest of the Summer, from *Midsummer* Day, to a Fortnight in *July*; after which, and for a Month before, they are out of Season till *September*; all the rest of the Year they are good, and fit for the Table, and with skilful cooking, are excellent Eating.

And here it is not improper to take Notice, how the unskilful, or over-covetous Angler's taking all Fish that comes to his Hook, and not throwing back the Fish that are out of Season at that particular time, is not only destructive to the Breed of the Fish themselves, but is one great Reason, if not the chief Reason, why several Kinds of Fish, otherwise very good, are depreciated and disparag'd, as ill tasted, without Relish, slimy, muddy, unwholsome, and the like; whereas would they stay and taste the same in the Prime of their Season, they would be of a quite differing Opinion, and the Credit of  
of

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of the Creature would be preserv'd, as its Goodness deserves.

The Time for angling for a Tench, is much the same as for a Carp; *viz.* early in the Morning, and early in the Evening; namely, from four to nine, both Morning and Evening: In the hot Months, they will hardly bite at all in the Day, but then they will bite freely all the Night, They are also more surely taken in the Night, during those Months, the Twilight giving them Light enough to see the Bait, and yet hardly Light enough to see the Line or Rod, much less the Angler, who is supposed to be farther off; but then, as is noted above, in those hot Months they are out of Season, and ought not to be taken or fish'd for at all.

In those hot Seasons, the Tench will lie so securely on, that is near, the Top or Surface of the Water, that it is easy to bring a Noose or Snare over his Head, and halter him out of the Water; this Noose should be made of a Link of two Hairs only, and not twisted too much, that it may both appear the smaller, and slip the smoother; it is to be tyed to the End of the Line, just where the Hook used to be plac'd, and so hung over his



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Head with a long Rod, the Line hanging perpendicular; then the Noose is let fall very softly into the Water, just before the Fish, and not suffered to touch him, till you are sure 'tis fairly round his Body, then give a gentle Pull, and you have him fast, just over the Gills and first Fin, and 'tis not in his Power to shift it off, nor indeed can he struggle, for his Body being hard girt about, the Fins wherein lies his Strength, are cramp'd and disabled, and he comes up as quietly as if he had no Life in him.

But unless this Sport be practised in the Spring Months, when sometimes the hot Weather sets in early, the Fish is naught, and not worth taking; some People, I know, think a large Fish always in Season when they can catch him; of these I have spoken already, and shall only add, such People ought never to complain of a Fish eating flashy and muddy, and not tasting well, the Fault being all their own.

The Tench, like the Carp, will live a great while out of the Water, which makes it easy when Gentlemen farm or cleanse their Ponds, to remove them from one place to another, tho' at several Miles Distance. The Baits for a Tench,  
are

are much the same as for a Carp, but you may take this with you too, that there needs not half the Caution or Art to be used in angling for the Tench, as for the Carp; the Tench bites fair, but not so freely as some other Fish, but he is not so shy as the rest; I have seen a Tench haltered and pull'd out of a Pond, and mark'd, by cutting off a Piece of his Tail, and I have haltered out the same Fish, in the same Place, the very next Day, and so again the third Day, when we executed him, because he would not take Warning.

The Sport in angling for a Tench, is not (however) very good, because they bite slowly and awkwardly, and you scarce know whether you have a Bite, or not; and when you have struck him, he makes very little stir about it, neither runs with the Bait, or struggles, except just a little at quitting his Element, the Water.

Some advise dipping the Worms in Tarr, when you bait for a Tench, and tell us, that we shall have much the better Sport; but I cannot recommend it from Experience: In short, I think it a very improbable Method, nor have I ever found the Sport mend, upon a Trial of that kind.

*Of the Bream.*

The Bream is the only flat fresh Water Fish; 'tis a stately and beautiful Fish, when full grown, and very large, but they are not very numerous; the Flesh of the Bream is very good, not so soft as that of the Flounder and Plaice, or so firm as that of the Turbet; some think the Bream and the Carp both of a kind, and differing only in Shape, and add, that the Bream is nothing but a flat Carp, and the Carp nothing but a deep Bream; but this is a Mistake; the Flesh also of the Bream is esteem'd the best of the two.

They breed both in the Rivers, and Ponds, but in the latter much freer and better, than in the former; and if the Soil suits them, they will be very fat, and very large; he will also be very long growing, but grows very fleshy; also they multiply so fast, that they are often obliged to clear the Ponds of them, least they should spoil the other Fish.

Some think they engender promiscuously with the Roach, and so make a Bastard Breed of both; but I see no Reason to believe this part; it is true, the Roach is a flat sided, or flat bellied Fish, but the  
Bream

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Bream is flat back'd, almost like the Flounder.

The Bream when in the River, loves slow Streams, and deep muddy Places, and therefore is chiefly found under Bridges, and in Mill Ponds; the River *Mole* in *Surrey*, is noted for large Bream, about *Darking* Bridges, and upwards; as also, the *Medway* in *Kent*.

They bite best in windy Weather, and when the Water is rough; and when in Ponds, when the Waves are high, you find the Bream always in the highest part of them: Their time of feeding is uncertain, but if the Weather be dark and hazy, and with a smart Gale of Wind, they will bite all Day long.

They spawn about *Midsummer*, just with the Tench, and are in Season also, as the Tench are; there's no Art at all in fishing for them, for if they are struck, they presently yield, and are not only taken, but even landed, without any Difficulty.

The usual Baits for the Bream, are Worms, Wasps, Gentles, Grasshoppers without their Legs, but he is never angled for upon the Surface of the Water, as in the several Sorts of Fish already spoken of, but under Water, and at Ground;

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he likewise bites at Pastes of most sort, especially if they have any rank Smell with them.

You must fish with a Float, measuring first your Depth, and if you bait the Ground with Grains, or ground Malt, just wetted, that it may sink, you will seldom miss of Sport; for they will come eagerly to your Ground Bait.

### *Of the Barble.*

The Barble is a comely, beautiful Fish, handsome in Shape, and his Scales are placed in a most exact and curious manner; he is long, like the Pike, tho' not quite so long, will grow to be very large, and then his proportion'd Parts best show themselves: He is call'd a Barble, from the Barbs which hang at his Nose, or Snout, and are call'd Wattles in the North of *England*, but here they call them Barbs; whether he is call'd the Barble from those Excrescences of Flesh hanging about him, or whether they are call'd Barbs from their being so peculiar to him, I shall not undertake to determine; but I know no Fish has them to such a Degree, as the Barble and the Tench.

He



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He delights in Rivers and running Waters, but will not live in a Pond, or at least he will not thrive there; like the Chub, he sorts with his own kind, and they love to live together; if they take to a particular place in a River, they scarce ever leave it; and I have known a Barble Hole, be a Barble Hole in one particular River, for twenty Years together, and how much longer it had been so, cou'd not be certain.

They generally choose a gravelly Shoal, and lie at one End of it; and if it is near the Shore, they get under the Bank, where routing with their Noses like a Hog, if there was not a hollow Shelf before, they will make it so, and under the Cover of it, they lie sucking the Earth of the Bank, and the finest of the Gravel, upon which it is said, they in part subsist, especially in Winter, and cold Weather.

In the Summer Weather, he comes out from under the Bank, and lies at the Head of the Shoal or Sand, as above; if he is not compleatly furnished with such a Retreat as this of a Bank, he seeks it under Bridges, and about the Mill Tails, or the Apron of Sluices, Floodgates, and Wears; and I have my self catch'd them in the

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Middle of the Locks, under the Sterlings of *London Bridge*.

In such Places as these, however, he finds a pretty sure Harbour, nor can the fiercest shooting of the Current drive him out; at the Beginning of Winter, he shifts his Haunts, and lies in deep Water, and under the Banks, as above.

The Barble is a fine Fish to look at, a good sporting Fish for the Angler; but he is not so famous upon the Table, as he is pleasant upon the Hooke; and yet as I said before of the Tench, if he is taken in the prime of his season his Flesh is not to be disparaged, either for Taste or wholesome Nourishment, and even at worst what you may think you fail of in the Flavour and agreeable Taste which you look for in the Barble, and which you are sure to find in the Carp and the Pike, and the Trout, &c. may be as much owing to the Ignorance of your Cook, and the deficiency of its Dressing as to any thing else; but it must be acknowledged, that what is wanting in Taste, if any Thing is wanting there, is made up in the Sport, for the Barble is a true sporting Fish, and tis very pleasant Angling for him, for he bites often but very wary and cunning,  
and

and yet with a dexterous Hand, he is at last taken hold of and secur'd.

Yet when you have hook'd him your Work is not done, or your Sport over, for he struggles hard, and very long, and as he is a very strong Fish, so he never gives out while he has any Life in him, especially if he be a large fullgrown Fish; and if you do not deal very cunningly with him, and manage him artfully, he will break all away Line and Rod, and every thing, and run quite away with it all.

He bites well in the Night, and some fish for him with a little Bell at the end of the Rod, and so sticking the Rod in the Ground wait the tinkling of the Bell, and such vigilant Anglers are sure to know the haunt of the Barble, and will have two or three Lines out at a time, placing themselves between them, that so they may know which Line to run to as soon as they hear the Bell, of which hereafter.

The biting of the Barble is to be nicely watch'd by Daylight, for if you are not very careful, he will get your Bait off of the Hook, and never come in Danger of the Hook it self; and therefore you must be careful in putting the Bait on, so that he cannot by taking the Top of it in his Mouth, draw it off of the Hook; for he

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will suck it so strongly, and pull so cautiously, and yet so hard withal, that he will have it off the Hook, if it be possible. In the Night you have no Remedy, but by often taking up your Lines to see if the Bait remains on the Hook, and renew it if it be gone; in the Day, you must let him nibble and suck, and when he does so, you may gently draw with your Hand, as if the Worm was pulling it self to get from him, and then he will be a little the more eager and greedy, and when you find he has it, strike him, the sooner the better, for he no sooner has it in his Mouth, but he claps his Jaws fast together, as if he was still sucking at the Bait, so that with a smart Pull, you can hardly fail taking hold some where or other.

The nicest Bait for a Barble, is a well scour'd, clean Red Worm, or Dew Worm, or the Gentle also very clean; he is taken also, with a Bait of New Cheese, and with Pastes, and with the Bait call'd the Bob; but these light Baits not being capable of being well fastn'd to the Hook, 'tis very easily drawn off by such a cunning Fellow, and so dextrous as the Barble is; therefore the Worm is the surest way to work him.

*The*

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The Barble spawns about *March*, but is so little the worse, and so soon recovers himself, that he is in Season again about *Mid-April*, especially if the Weather be warm; if you take a Barble with the Row or Spawn within her, let your Cook have Notice not to dress it, for it is not good to eat; tho' I am far from the Opinion of those who tell us it is Poison; if I was sure the Spawn were Poison, I should be far from the Opinion I have mentioned above, *viz.* that the Fish which came of the Spawn cou'd be good for Food.

The Barble keeps in Company with his Kind, old and young together; so that where you catch one, you may find more, if you have Patience; and as I said above, they seldom change their Habitation, but once a Barble Hole, and always a Barble Hole for many Years. They grow very large, and I have heard of a Barble weighing eight Pound and a Half, but I believe that is very rare to find.

### *Of the Pearch.*

The Pearch is a very good, well tasted, and wholesome Fish, and is valued as such, next the three first Rates, (*Salmon,*  
*Trout,*



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Trout, and Carp) especially if he be large and full grown; his biggest usual Growth is fifteen or sixteen Inches, they talk of some much bigger in the Fens, but I have not met with any, tho' I have often fish'd in the Fens, and in the greatest Rivers there.

The Pearch is the only Champion, that defies that voracious Tyrant, the devouring Pike: He (the Pearch) will swim by him (the Pike) in his greatest Fury, and sticking up his Hog Back with five dreadful Spikes upon the Fins of it, the Pike, who knows him too it seems, will not offer to meddle, tho' the Pearch be ever so small: His Skin too is arm'd with hard Scales, as if in a Shell; so that if the Pike took him into his Mouth, he cou'd not easily crush or wound him.

The River Pearch is esteemed much the best of the two, but the Sea, or Salt Water Pearch, is the best of all, and will be much thicker and deeper bodied, than the River or Pond Pearch, but not much longer.

The middling sort of Rivers are most agreeable to the Pearch, not fierce, rapid Streams, such as the *Darwent* or *Tees*, in the *North*, or such as the *Willey* and the *Avon* at *Salisbury*; but such as the mid-land

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land Rivers of the *Thames*, and *Ouse*, and *Warwickshire Avon*, Streams that are neither fierce or dull.

The little River *Mole* in *Surrey*, as well after it has pass'd the *Swallows*, as before, is famous for *Pearch*; and very large *Pearch* are found in the *Charmell*, by *Oxford*; as also in the *Thames*, from *Windsor*, upwards.

They love clear Water, and good firm, gravelly, or pebly Bottoms; if you take a *Pearch* out of a slow, thick, muddy River, you may distinguish its Goodness in the Taste of it; neither are the Fish themselves so lively, so sprightly, and brisk, in such Waters, as in others; for the *Pearch* is a chearful looking Fish, always scouring about, and hunting its Prey, and if it be confin'd to a foul, slow, thick Water, it grows dull and heavy, and consequently is not well supply'd with Food for its Growth. It is a thick, deep bodied Fish, and its Flesh is solid and good, as above.

They choose deep, hollow Banks, like the *Barble*, where they will make Holes in the Sides, big enough to lie in, and will get into them and lodge, as if in a House; and the cunning Anglers know those Holes so well, that they will often grope

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grobe them out, and take them up with their Hands. They lie under those Banks generally forty or fifty in a Place together, and if you happen to throw into a right Haunt, and take one Pearch, your way is, keep to the Place; for if you take one, you may take them all, one by one; for they are bold biting Fish, and have not Knowledge enough of what happens, to take warning by the Fate of their Friends; but if you hook one, and let it drop in again, you may give over for the present in that Place; for that one runs in a Fright down to their Retreats, and all the rest go with her; however, they will come out again a few Hours after, and be as easy to take, as ever.

They spawn but once a Year, which is generally in *February*, and the Beginning of *March*; and they are in Season all the rest of the Months: In a Word, when you can catch them, you may be sure they are good; for the two other Months, which are their spawning Months, they will not bite.

The proper Baits for a Pearch, are clean well scour'd Worms, of all the usual Sorts; also prepar'd Baits, such as Bobs of both Sorts, Pastes, and in a Word, almost any thing; for the Pearch is no dainty

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dainty Feeder, but on the contrary, exceeding ravenous and eager, and therefore if you get but among them, you never fail of good Sport, whatever you fish with, except a Fly, for that they do not understand, and never meddle with it.

He is a bold Biter, and yet sometimes will play about the Bait, come and nib it, and be gone, as if he had come to see what it was, had spied the Hook, and was aware of it; but let him alone, and do not strike too soon, for he will be certain to come again, and to take it down at last, and then you have him.

When you have struck him, if he be a large one he will pull strongly, and will struggle long for his Life, and sometimes, by I know not what Art, he will get off of the Hook, when you think you are sure of him; you must therefore give him time to bite, and if possible, be sure that he takes it down before you strike him, or else you will lose him, which is the most vexatious thing to an Angler, next to that of hanging his Hook out of Reach, that can happen to him.

You fish for a Pearch, in the ordinary Way, with Float, either Quill or Cork, as you see fit; he lies about Midwater, but some think 'tis best to lay for him at Ground,

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Ground, tho' I think six Inches above the Ground better ; in cold Weather indeed, the Pearch lies deeper, as all other Fish do.

As the Pearch is a great Devourer of the small Fish, so you may bait with a Minnow, a Loach, or small Seven Eyes, and if you lay for a large Pearch, these are the best Baits you can use ; but then you must expect no Pearch under ten Inches or a Foot long, and consequently have the least tho' the best Sport ; also he bites well at a young Frog, when in Season, 'tis a kind of a Dainty to him, and he bites greedily at it.

*Of the Pope, or Ruff.*

The Ruff is a common Fish, and not much valued hereabouts, but it is because it differs extremely from the Ruff of the River *Yare*, about *Norwich*, of which Mr. *Cambden* speaks very particular, and which I have mentioned already ; but the Ruff in these Parts, which is more properly call'd a Pope, is a small Fish, not bigger than a Gudgeon, having a great Head, a wide Mouth, and a small Body, a nimble sprightly Fish.

They



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They are much of the Nature of a Pearch, but not to be compar'd to him for Value, because so very little ; yet they eat very well : They lie altogether, and generally in little Shoals, and small Pits, where with a Casting Net, I have seen five Hundred pull'd out at a Throw, meerly for Sport, and thrown in again, and then catch'd again and again, to see if they were made shy and wary by the Danger ; but they were like a sort of other fool-hardy People, that shou'd have more Wit, but never take warning.

It is the same Case with Anglers, for if you light of a Hole where the Popes lie, they bite so greedily, that you may pull them out almost as fast as you can throw in, and on such an Occasion, you may put three Hooks on to one Line, and 'tis much if you do not often bring up one upon every Hook. They love a sandy Bottom. and will grow very fat and sweet, if they have such a Place where they like.

The Ruff which I have mentioned above, is very different from this we call the Pope, and has its Name from the Roughness of its Coat ; and so its Name should be spelt ROUGH ; whereas the Ruff which we call a Pope, is call'd so because  
his

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his Gills and Head strutting out, makes him look as if he had a Ruff about his Neck; and his Name is therefore spelt RUFF.

The Description of the Ruff, or Rough, in the River *Yare*, is, that his Body is all over prickly, and rough, with sharp prickly Fins, like the *Pearch*; in Colour a dusky brown, but paleish yellow on the Belly; mark'd by the Chaws with a double Course of Semicircles; the Eye of two Colours, the upper Half dark brown, and the lower Half pale yellow, the Ball and Sight of it black as Jet, with a Line along the Back, which looks like a List, and fastned with a String round the Body a-thwart (that is to say, it looks as if it was so tyed thwart) the Fins are all full of black Spots, which Fins are arm'd with sharp Spikes, like the *Pearch*, and they always are stiff and bristled up when the Fish is angry, but flat when his Passion is over, and continue so.

All this intimates, that this Ruff differs from that which we call by that Name; but besides this, 'tis also a larger Fish: But I return to the Ruff as we understand it, and as we call it a *Pope*. He is, as I said, a pleasant Fish to angle for, he bites greedy, and is catch'd easy; the Bait most proper

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proper for him, is the same as for a Pearch; particularly he bites at the small Red Worm scour'd and clean, and at the Worm call'd a *Gilt Tail*; also at *Gentles* and *Caddis*: If you find a Haunt of these Popes, and are minded to catch a great many, throw a Basket full or two of Sand or light, dry Earth, into the Place, and they come to it, just as the Gudgeon does to a Bank of Sand rak'd up and disturb'd: If you do thus, you may catch Hundreds in a Day. As to their Season, they are seldom out of Season when you can catch them, for when they spawn, they run among the Weeds, and into Deeps, where you cannot come at them.

*Of the Roach and the Dace.*

The Roach and Dace may go together, as they do in the River, for they often swim together, and are much of a kind; indeed if there is any Difference, the Dace is esteem'd the better Fish to eat; but if the Roach be in Season, she will vie with the Dace on all Occasions.

There is indeed a Difference in them in the River, and that very considerable; the Dace spawns in *March*, the Roach not till *May*; again, the Spawn of the Roach is

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is an excellent Dish, and eats very nicely, but the Spawn of the Dace is not ; yet the Flesh of the Dace is softer and sweeter than that of the Roach ; nor is the Dace so bony, and therefore not so troublesome in eating. When the Roach is out of Season, you may know it by feeling, for his Scales lie as rough upon his Back, they feel like the back Side of an Oyster Shell, but if he is in Season, they lie flat and smooth, and feel slick in your Hand, as the Dace. The Roach is broad, deep bodied, but flat sided, and thin ; the Dace is long, not deep bodied, but thicker than the Roach ; the Roach grows to the largest Size, and will be sometimes twelve or fourteen Inches long ; the Dace will be as long, but then as the Dace is a long narrow Fish, a Dace of twelve Inches will not weigh above half so much as a Roach of a Foot long.

But the Reason why I join them thus together, is, for that the fishing or angling for them is just the same, the Baits for them are the same, and they are much the same in their way of managing themselves : They are prodigious Breeders, and it is meet they should be so, for there are prodigious Numbers of them destroy'd ; for they are Food for almost all  
the

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the Fish that live by eating of other Fish.

They will both of them bite at a Fly, but the Roach takes it within the Water, and the Dace upon the Surface of the Water; accordingly if you angle for them, you must angle for the Roach in about two Foot deep, but for the Dace within two Inches of the Bottom.

The *Italians* make a great Dainty of the Dace, or Dare, for they pickle them as they do Anchovies; some pickle them here also, just as they do Herrings, and they will eat much better than the Herrings. They are best, and fattest, in *February* and *March*, which is a little before they spawn, and then they are sweetest and largest too.

There is no great Craft in catching them, tho' they are esteem'd a very subtil, cunning Fish, in their way; but when they are hook'd, you have no Trouble with them, and therefore they are call'd, the Water Sheep, being so mild, and so ready to yield; it is a healthful, sound Fish; and 'tis a Proverb as I have heard,  
*As sound as a Roach.*

The River *Thames*, and the River *Lea*, near *London*, are counted the best Rivers for these Fish, only that all the young Anglers thereabout, are continually at  
work



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work upon them, and catch a prodigious Number of them, which prevents their growing so large as they wou'd otherwise be.

They like a gravel and sandy Bottom, and to lie under shelvy Banks, and generally in deep Water ; for this Reason, if you find the Mouth of a small River or Brook, where it runs into a larger River, opposite to the Mouth, where the Water is generally deep, there you will find the best Roaches ; and under a hanging Bank, and then in or near the same Place, under the Dark of a hanging Willow, or Alder Tree, there you will find the Dace.

The Bait for them, is the ordinary red Worm, or Gentles, Cadis, or Cod Bait ; as also, the Oak Worm, and indeed any thing usual for Bait, especially good Pastes ; if you think it worth while to bait the Ground for them, you seldom miss of Sport.

*Of the Gudgeon.*

The Gudgeon is call'd, the fresh Water Smelt, as the Smelt is call'd the salt Water Gudgeon ; they are a beautiful kind of Fish as swims in the River, strait, slender, neatly shap'd, finely spotted on the

Back

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Back and Tail, and of a bright, clear Colour, almost transparent; but that which is above all, is, they are a pleasant, well tasted, wholesome Fish to eat, easy of Digestion, breed good Blood, and yield a strong Nourishment.

The Gudgeon loves a clear Water, a sandy, or gravelly Bottom, a gentle Stream, not rapidly swift, or heavily slow and dull, and chiefly they delight in small Rivers, hence 'tis observ'd of the *Thames*, that all the smaller Rivers that run into it, are full of excellent Gudgeons, but not the *Thames* it self.

In hot Weather, they spread themselves over the whole Stream, lying however, in large Companies near one another, among the Shoals; and by this Means, they are sometimes surpriz'd by the Casting Net, that Devourer of the Anglers Sport, and great Numbers of them taken together.

The River *Lea*, running from *Hertford* and *Ware*, the River running from *Guildfort*, the River *Coln*, running from *Hertfordshire* to *Uxbridge* and *Colebrook*, are all famous for Gudgeons; but the first is said to have the best in *England*, and the most of them; indeed I have taken excellent Gudgeons out of the River

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*Lea*,

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*Lea*, of the Growth of seven Inches long, which, however, is extraordinary. *Waltham Abbey* is famous for Gudgeons, being upon the said River *Lea*, and where the Citizens of *London* often go on purpose to eat Gudgeons.

In Winter Weather, and when the Weeds, which are their Shelter, begin to rot, or are cut away by the People who take Care of the Rivers, the Gudgeons then fly to deep Water, where, however, the Angler meets with good Sport, and the Fish are better secur'd from Poachers with their Nets.

They bite fair and bold, and will take Bait and Hook, all down together without Fear, but then you must take special Care when you fish for Gudgeons, not to load your Hook too much, for they cannot take in a great Bait, and that sets them a nibbling at it, and then they discover the Hook, and you hear no more of the Fish; but take a fine small Hook, and a neat round Bait, just enough to cover the Hook, and you never want Sport.

When you fish for them in the Shallows, the best way is, to take a long Pole with an Iron Rake at the End of it, and disturb the Sand or Gravel with the Rake, and then throw in, and if there are  
Gudgeons

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Gudgeons any where near, they will come to that place.

The best angling for Gudgeons, is with a Cork Float, so you will best distinguish his Bite; let your Bait lie at Ground, but so as to drive with the Stream, which the Cork Float will help it to do, and keep it stirring.

The usual Bait for a Gudgeon, is the Red Worm clean and wholesome, not stale; or the Cadis, or Gentle, or Paste, all in their Turn; and if you wou'd bait the Ground for them, the best way is, only to throw in a Basket of dry Earth, or Sand, and when you are sure they are come to it, throw in some Paste, in small Quantities at a time, and in small round Pellets, such as they may swallow freely at once.

You must not be too hasty with a Gudgeon when he bites, for sometimes he will nibble at your Bait a little, as if he had a mind to taste it first, and see if he lik'd it; but he will come again, and then you have him, unless he has discover'd the Hook, as above; and if he has, you have nothing to do but to bait again with some Bait of another kind.

*Of the Eel.*

There is a greater Variety in this Fish, than in any other Fish of the River, and 'tis not yet determin'd how to treat them, whether as a Fish, or as a Reptil; some who have no good Will to them, will have them be no better than a Species of Serpents, and will have them call'd Water Snakes.

Others dispute their Generation, and tell us, they are generated not by any Spawn, or *Ova*, but by the Slime of the Earth, impregnated by the Heat of the Sun, so that they will have them be only an enervated Corruption and Putrefaction: These, and a great many nasty Notions, these squeamish People have about Eels, in order to help their Stomachs to loath them, or at least to justify a pretended Aversion to them.

But after all, the Eel, let him be engendred how he will, is a very good, a rich, nourishing, and wholesome Fish: They distinguish them into several Sorts, but we generally know no more than two Sorts; namely, the Silver Eel, and the Black Eel, and these seem to be of no specifick difference in kind, only as the

Water



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Water is less clear or muddy, in which they are nourished.

The Eel has this Property, that tho' they breed in the Rivers, yet as they grow bigger, those of them that remove and go down the Stream, never attempt to go back again, and those that reach into the Sea, never return, but continue there till they die, or till they grow to an unmeasurable Bigness, and are then call'd *Congers*.

From hence 'tis to be remark'd, that catching of Eels by Weels and Leaps, at Mills and Sluices, and Wears, or any how else, is no Damage to the River or Water they are taken at, for that they once going down the Stream, never return, nor wou'd they return if they were not so intercepted.

The Flesh of the River Eel is firm and good, but not of the easiest Digesture, and therefore not esteemed good for tender, weak Stomachs, but if well digested, is of excellent good Nourishment.

There is the Sea Eel, or Conger, the Lamprey Eel, or Seven Eyes, (in the *Servn*) of these I need say nothing here, the Angler being not concern'd in them, neither indeed are they much, with any Eel

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at all, for 'tis very rare, if at all, that an Eel is drawn out by Line and Rod.

Eels are always in Season, but if they are at any time better than other, it is in the Winter; and if they are at any time worse than other, it is in *May*; for then they begin to run, as they call it, that is, to leave their Winter Quarters, and come abroad. In the six cooler Months of the Year, they never stir from their Haunts, but get into the soft Earth, or Ouse, or Sand, whatever it is, where they fix themselves, and bedding themselves there in great Companies together, they seldom stir in the Day time, unless they are disturb'd by any Body's mudding the Water, and then indeed they are forced to come out; for tho' they lie as above, bedded in the Mud, yet they lie with their Heads out in the clear Water, unless forced to the Mud for Shelter and Security, and then as soon as possible they endeavour to come at the Water again.

In the Day time they never stir at all, as above, unless by Force, and therefore they are generally catch'd in the Night, which is done by laying of Hooks, of which in its place; their Haunts in the Day time, when they have shifted from their Winter Quarters, is always under the

the Covert of Roots and Stocks of Trees and Bushes, or under Boards and Planks lying in the Water, about Floodgates, Mills, Bridges, &c. or among Piles, or great Stones, where there is no coming at them without the utmost Difficulty. They delight in still Waters, and foul muddy Rivers or Ponds.

And yet when they are abroad, they often lie at the Bottom of Sluices, and narrow Passages of Water, where the Current is contracted; and I have seen very good Eels, and many of them too, pulled up just at dead low Water, in one of the very Locks or Arches of *London Bridge*.

They are so coveted by the Pike, that a Piece of an Eel is the best Bait you can offer in fishing for a Pike.

There are several Ways of catching Eels, tho' not by angling, and in the Season of the Year they are taken by Day, as well as by Night.

1. Brogling or snigling, as the Sportsmen call it, (tho' I see no meaning in the Word;) this is sticking the Hook at the End of a long Rod or Pole, and holding the Line which the Hook is fast to, in your Hand; when you have all ready, and the Hook baited, you thrust it with the End of the Pole into such Holes, and

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under the Stones, or Boards and Planks, and among the Piles, or any place where you think the Eels lie, and when you have thrust your Pole or Rod in, you must move it about so as that the Hook, which is but slightly stuck on for that very purpose, may be loosen'd and parted from the Stick, and then draw the Stick or Pole out, leaving the Hook and Bait behind; if there be an Eel in the place, she will stir a little by feeling the Motion and stirring of your Rod or Pole, and by that moving, as if she stirr'd to look out and see what the Matter was, she finds the Bait lying, which she will not fail to take, and that effectually, for she swallows it down so far, that she never misses hooking her self. There's no need of striking her, but when you find she pulls, you must draw her gently out.

It is to be observ'd, that the Eel when she lies in these Holes, is supposed to lie coil'd up round, as the Seamen coil a Cable, with her Tail in the middle; when therefore she first feels the Hook, and you begin to draw her out, she will come pretty easy a little way, but when she finds she is pull'd beyond her Strength to resist, she will fly to it with her Tail, and twist about the Line, and break all away, un-

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less very strong indeed; for which Reason, the Angler must be sure to have his Tackle more than ordinarily strong; for if the Eel thus twists her Tail about it, he must pull hard, and draw her out all of a Heap, as she lies, which if his Line be good, he may do; but then he must first give her time to weary her self, and then she will come the easier.

This is to be practis'd only in hot Weather, because then only the Waters are low enough to come at such Places, except sometimes on letting the Water out of Ponds, and stopping Sluices and Mills; by which Means, even in Winter, the Water may be low enough also to come at them, in such particular Places.

The next Method is, Bobbing for Eels, a Practice chiefly used in the River of *Thames*; and about *London*, where the Quantity of Eels is indeed prodigious great, occasioned by the oufy Mud on the Shores, which partaking of the Common Filth of the City, are more than usually nourishing to the Eels.

Bobbing for Eels, is by stringing a large Number of Eels upon a fine, but strong Packthread, till you have two or three Yards of Thread thus fully strung; then making them all up in a Bunch of about



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four or five Inches long, and not more, fasten the Bunch together at the Top, leaving the Bows to hang out like a Knot of Ribbands, then fasten all to a Line, and the Line to a long Rod or Pole, about five to seven Foot long.

About seven Inches above the Knot of Worms, fasten a Plummet of Lead, of about two Ounces Weight, and thus let down the Knot of Worms to the Bottom, or very near it; you need no Float, for you will feel the Worms shake the Line, by the Eels tugging at them; for finding no Hook, they lay hard to get them off, but the Thread hanging in their Teeth, they cannot disengage themselves; then draw up your Line, not with a Jerk or Stroke, but a steady, swift and even rate, till they come to Land, and then giving it a short Twitch, you shake the Eels off; and 'tis very ordinary to draw up three or four at a time. The usual way is, to sit in a Boat to bob, and then you toss them into the Boat with the short Jerk, as above: This is an easy and sure way of fishing for Eels

Another way for Eels is spearing; this is a known Method, but is among those unfair Ways, which I call poaching.

The last Method is, by laying of Night Hooks, of which by it self.

of

*Of the Mullet.*

The Mullet is a large, and very valuable Fish; but as it is rather a Sea Fish, than a fresh River Fish, and is never as I remember, kept in Ponds, it does not come much within our present Design; and yet sometimes they are taken with Line and Hook.

The best Mulletts are taken at *Arundel* and *Chichester*, they have them also at *Southampton*, and at *Pool* in *Dorsetshire*, but we never find that they go far up into the fresh Rivers.

They are an excellent Food, luscious and sweet, and yet not surfeiting. They grow to be eighteen to twenty Inches long, deep bodied, and scal'd like a Carp. They are in Season from *May* to *September*, and are taken as above, sometimes by Hook and Line, but chiefly by Nets, so that no Direction for angling is needful in this Case.

*Of the Small Fish.*

There are under this Head to be reckon'd,

1. The *Loach*, famous for our Gentlemen swallowing them alive in a Glass of Wine, which I take to be a piece of Sport, rather than a Practice founded on Reason; for tho' the Heat of the Stomach will soon extinguish the Creature's Life, yet I have heard of those who have felt the Fish move up and down in their Stomach so plainly, that it has made them sick, and they have cast them up again alive, almost as the Whale did old *Jonah* the Prophet.
2. The *Bleak*, a good, wholesome, well tasted Fish, but small, and scarce worth fishing for, because not worth dressing, unless among other Fish that are bigger; however, they make Sport to the Anglers, and are very pleasant to fish for, as well as easy to take.
3. The *Minnow*. The best use of this Fish, is upon the Hook to bait, as it is in the River to feed the larger Fish, and it is worth little else, being so very small, that for eating the Flesh, 'tis hardly

hardly worth the Hazard of being choak'd with the Bones.

Having thus taken Notice of the several Sorts of Fish which are usually angled for in the Rivers, and the Methods of fishing for them respectively; it remains, that I should give some Heads of Instruction for Angling in General; such as with the particular Directions for managing the Tackle for this or that Fish, may furnish any Gentleman who loves the Sport of Angling, with Knowledge in all the Parts of it, so as that he may not be at a Loss whatever Fish presents to his Hand, but may go to work upon it like an Artist, and be able to fish for them in the proper Manner for every particular kind; and with this, and some few Directions by way of Appendix, I shall think my Work compleat.



*Of Angling in General.*

**T**HE Manner of Angling, and Rules for the Artist to manage himself, in order to circumvent and take the Fish, is sufficiently spoken to in the proper Heads of

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of the Fish that they in particular angle for ; tho' something may still be said in a summary way. But the Tools to work with are very material in the Sport, and something must be said to that part : The Impliments chiefly to be consider'd in order to furnish out an Angler, and to fit him compleatly for the Sport, are as follows ;

The Rod,  
The Line,  
The Hook,  
The Bait.

I shall treat them with Brevity, but yet not so, as not to leave a young Sportsman fully inform'd, and capable to know by himself, when he is well furnish'd and when not.

A fishing Rod is generally made of Hazel, or Yew ; some make use of young Crab Stocks, Black Thorn, Hornbeam, Holly or Holm ; but they are all in my Opinion, too stubborn, or too heavy, or both ; the Hazel is a plyable and pleasant Wood, and bends freely ; of all the Hazel, that of the Cob Nut grows to the greatest Length, is generally strait, and very long. The Yew is very tough, and will



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will bend safely, bearing any Weight, and is not to be out-done by any thing, except Whalebone, in making the small and top End of your Rod.

There is some Art in the choosing, gathering, and seasoning the Switches, and fitting them one into another, but as this is a Trade by it self, and most Anglers now, buy their Rods at the Shops, where they have found a way not only to make them exactly strait, but to bore them through, and cause the Pieces to joint into one another, with great Exactness and Art: I say this being the Case, I think 'tis needless to send the Gentlemen to the Woods to gather the Hazel Sticks, choose, season and straiten 'em themselves.

And so dextrous are the *Angle-Rod-Makers* now, that they make up the longest Rods all of short Joints, so that they are not only easy to carry, but the Angler can shorten or lengthen his Rod upon all Occasions, as his Sport requires, without stirring from the River Bank. This, in a Word, sums up all the particular Instructions about Angle Rods; for by this Method the Rod being the same, is shortned or lengthned to what Measure the Angler pleases, or his Sport requires, even six, seven, or eight Yards long, which is as  
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long as can be us'd to any Purpose, let the Sport or Place be of what kind it will; a longer Rod giving no Command of the Line to the Angler, so as to turn it this way or that to a Truth, as occasion may require, or to strike the Fish critically, as may be absolutely necessary; for a very long Rod is many Ways difficult to manage, and the Fish escapes before the Stroke of the Angler is felt effectually, so as to fasten the Hold which the Hook might otherwise take; I wou'd never advise the dextrous Angler to fish with a Rod of above five to six Yards, exclusive of the Whalebone at the End, which shou'd not be above eight Inches or a Foot at most.

In choosing an Angle at the Shop, two Things are to be principally regarded;  
 1. That it be a Taper and neat in Shape, gradually falling from great to little, and from little to less, till it comes to the Joint next the *Whalebone*, which shou'd come to be but one Degree larger at the small End, than the Whalebone is at the large End, so to receive the last Joint into it self.  
 2. 'Tis a Nicety worth observing, that tho' the last Joint should not be so small as not to bear the Weight which it may be needful to pull up, yet it must not be  
 thick

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thick and clumsy, for then it will not only cause all the other Joints below it to be so too, but it will not mount well, *that is to say*, it will be top heavy and unhandy, and the Consequence is, no true Jerk or Stroke can be made when you strike the Fish; nor will the Rod bend in all Parts alike, so that some Parts will feel your Hand less, and others more, and it will be Odds if (upon a strong Jerk to strike the Fish) you do not break the Rod, or at least the Line, especially if the Fish you have hook'd be heavy and strong.

We have much Talk of Fir or Deal, for Angle Rods, and in former Days such Things may have been; but our Artists know better Things now; our Rods which are now hollow'd and let into one another by Joints, are so much stronger, and yet lighter and handier, that all those clumsy Ways are out of Doors, and you have nothing to do, but to regard the Choice of the Angle.

As the Artists are now all supply'd with Tackle for their Fishing at the Shops, I shall not trouble them with Directions for twisting their Links of Horse Hair, or forming their Lines, or fastning the Hooks; what is needful to be said for the Length and Strength of the Lines, on the  
several

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several extraordinary Occasions of fishing, I have spoken at large in directing how to catch the several Sorts of Fish respectively, and it wou'd be a needless Tautology to repeat it: There I have both mentioned the Lines and the Hooks which ought to be used in every Article, and have also noted the Manner of placing the Baits to the Hooks, on the several Occasions, of Trouling, Dibbing, or Angling, so that I see nothing needful to add, but what wou'd seem to be a Repetition of what has been said before, and will rather tire, than instruct the Reader.

Something relating to the Size of the Hook, may be needful, because I have said little to it before. I think it is a general Caution, which every Sportsman ought to regard, and which I hope they will accept as a Maxim in Angling, *viz.* that there may be some Gain in having a Hook too large, but that there is never any Loss in having it small.

By fishing with a small Hook, I mean a Hook small in Proportion to the Sport; for there are larger and smaller Hooks of every kind, and for every Sport, or every kind of Fish: The only thing which is to be consider'd in the Choice of the Hook is, that it be of a firm, solid Make, good Metal,

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Metal, well barb'd, and not too short in the Shank,

There is also a just Proportion to be observ'd, with respect to the Bait which you use, for this or that Fishing; if your Bait is very large, your Hook must be a little the larger, but then you had much better lessen your Bait a little, than to take a larger Hook, which will be much more to your Inconvenience in the Sport: If, then, you shou'd rather lessen your Bait than take too large a Hook, much less should you use a great Hook with a small Bait.

Particularly, all sorts of Pastes and artificial Baits, require a small Hook, because as they hang but tenderly upon the Hook, so they are bor'd too wide by a large Hook, and will be with more Difficulty kept upon the Hook. I know no Fish in the River that are usually angled for, which require a large Hook; a Barble and a Chub some think require a large Hook, but it is not that they may not be taken with a smaller Hook, but that they are bold Biters, and nothing (they think) will fright them; that is as much as to say, no Art is needful to be used with them. But I must differ from those who are of that Opinion, thus far, that tho' it may be



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be true that they are taken, especially in hot Weather, with any thing; for some tell you, a Chub may be taken with a Piece of Packthread and a great crooked Pin, that is to say, with the grossest and coursest Tackle that can be thought of; yet I must add, not at the same time granting the other to be true, that suppose it were so, yet he that fishes according to Art, and with proper Tackle, shall always have the better of those who go to work such rough Ways, and the Rules of Art are always to be observ'd: Besides, those who talk thus, do yet acknowledge, that in the Winter, when the Chub lies at the Bottom, and is not so eager, it requires other Measures to take him, and more Art than those Gentlemen talk of.

The making and shifting of Floats, whether of Cork, or Quills, is so easy to do, and so universally known by every Boy, that it wou'd be meer lengthning our Time and Trouble, to say any thing of it more than this, that the Cork Float in swift running Streams, is the best, for many Reasons; particularly, that it swims more steady, keeps above Water best, and is less offensive to the Eye, which is, not without pain, kept in close Attendance upon the Motion of the Tip of a Quill,

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Quill, where the Water is fierce and rippling, and dazles the Eye so, that 'tis hard to know when a Fish bites, and when it does not.

There is more Art abundantly, in plumbing or leading your Lines, which is always the Work of the Angler himself, and to which no regular Method can be appointed; only that it is to bear a Proportion to your Float, and to the Weight of the Line, and what is appending; namely, so as to sink the Bait and Line to such a Depth as you are to fish at, of which the Angler is to be Judge, and for which he generally plumbs or measures the Depth of the Water before hand, in order to place his Float at a proper Distance from the Hook. Also you are to observe, that th<sup>r</sup> the Lead or Plummet is to be heavy enough to sink your Bait to the Bottom, if you intend to fish at Ground, yet it is not to be like an Anchor to your Bait, and to sink it so as to iodge it at the Bottom, as an Anchor holds a Boat, but it is to be so poiz'd, that the Bait may be kept at the Ground, and yet may roul along gently with the Stream, as often as it touches the Ground, and so be kept in motion, that the Fish may be thereby drawn to observe it; and yet it  
shou'd

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shou'd stir but gently neither, nor drive too fast, or as fast as the Water runs, which if the Streams be swift, will be too fast a great deal.

I need not hint, or at least I need but hint, to the Man that delights in Angling, that when he goes out to his Sport, he ought to be well furnish'd with Hooks, Lines, Plummets, Floats, &c. and Silk and Links to mend a Line, that is to say, to be prepar'd to repair every Loss, and mend every Breach that may happen to him in his Sport; also not to forget his Panier, or Net Bag, to carry home his Fish. He that goes without this, either expects no Sport, which if he really did not, he ought to stay at home; or expects great Things, and ought to take a Horse or a Cart with him, and then indeed *the Price of Butter may be in some danger*, &c. the ordinary Mob Witticism of those who have no Relish of the Sport.

Having mentioned the Tools, or Tackle necessary for the Angler, and how to furnish himself with them, and to manage them when he has them, it seems needful to sum up his Instructions in general.

1. It is to be observ'd, that tho' all Fish will not take the Fly on the Top of the Water, yet all sorts of Fish will at some Seasons,

Seasons, bite or take the Bait at Ground, and therefore he that knows and marks the Seasons, may always have some Sport in fishing at Ground ; and fishing so, is certainly the stated ordinary way of angling ; all the rest is a kind of Excursion, out of the Road of the Angler's Art ; not but that those *out of the way* Anglers have Rules, and use Art too, as has been shown, but the angling at Ground is the Sum and Substance of the Sport.

2. But in fishing thus at Ground, there is a Variety of Methods, and every Method may be said to be carried on with Tackle different and particular to it self, for Example.

1. There is angling with the running Line, and even in this there is a Difference when the Water is clear, and when it is muddy. 1. In muddy, or what I call *White Water*, you fish with a short Line, not above the Length of your Rod ; the Reason is given above, namely, that the Fish do not see, and you come as near the Water as you please : In this way of angling you keep your Line always strait, and the Bait rolling on the Ground, and fish always down Stream.

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In this angling you need no Float of any kind ; for keeping your Line strait, you will either see the Motion of a Bite at the Top of your Rod, or feel it by your Hand ; in like manner, as your Line is strait upward, so when you feel the Fish bite, you must strike strait up, giving the Fish a little time to take it in, and slackening your Hand a little that he may not feel you too soon. 2. If you angle in clear Water with the running Line, your Tackle must be finer, *viz.* the two or three lowest Links shou'd be of a single Hair, or of two Hairs at most, especially if you angle for a Trout, *of which above*, your Line a little shorter than your Rod, not much ; in this Posture as you angled in White Water down the Stream, so in clear Water you shou'd always angle up the Stream. In this manner of angling, you will often take a Trout, Grailing, or Salmon Peel, before your Bait reaches to the Bottom. In this way of angling, the Worm is preferable to all the Pastes or artificial Flies that can be made ; by the Worm, I mean including the Cod Bait, and Ash Grub, and such like :  
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But in general, the plain Worm well cleansed, exceeds all the pretended Niceties of Baits, that so many puzzle themselves about, rather to be esteem'd Artists, and curious, than for any better Work they make of it, than others may do in the ordinary way. There are indeed some Times of the Year, when they pretend the Fish (because of the Plenty of Food in the Rivers) are dainty, and must be treated with Variety: But even then, 'tis the best Rule, as I observ'd before, to mark among the Trees which hang over the River, near the place you fish at, what Worms, Caterpillers, or other Insects, may be shaken off of those Trees, and those will be a Feast for the Fish, as good as any you can provide; for you may depend, what Fish are thereabout, come to feed upon those very Creatures which Nature thus furnishes for them.

2. The second Method is the *Float-Angling*. As in angling with the running Line, your Line should be shorter than your Rod, for the Reasons above; so in Float-Angling it should be longer, by at least

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least five or six Foot, that is to say, in running Streams and Rivers; the Reason of this is, because in this way of angling, you cast or fling your Bait up the Stream, as far as the Length of both Rod and Line will permit, and keeping your own Standing where you were, let the Float come down the Stream, pass by you, and drive below you, as far also, as the Length of Line and Rod will permit, and then pulling it out, do the same again, as long as you think fit to keep your Stand. Angling thus in clear Water, you shou'd make it a Rule, never to bait with above one Worm at a time; if the Water be white or muddy, you put on two or three or more, as you see occasion.

Most of our fishing with Rod and Hook, is perform'd in the Day, because as 'tis a Sport or Diversion, Gentlemen do not care, neither is it so wholesome to linger out the Night in the Damps and Dews, which makes the Sport often be dear paid for, by their want of Health; but as some are so keen at their Sport, as to value nothing, and fear nothing, consequently will hazard Health and Life for their Game, something should be said for the Direction of such in their Sport, as to those things wherein it differs from Day fishing.

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1. It is to be observ'd, that several Sorts of Fish will not bite in the Night, or but very rarely, nor at all unless it be in the Summer Months, when the Twilight continues all Night; among these, the Chub, the Pike, the Bream, the Carp, the Tench, will very rarely bite in the dark, the Trout indeed will; but as Gentlemen will not expose themselves to the Inclemencies of the Night Air for their Sport, so those who do, are generally esteemed among the unfair Sportsmen. The Barble also will bite in the Night, and likewise the Roach, and Dace, and Gudgeon.

2. The manner of knowing when a Fish bites, is different. The nice Anglers who wait all Night upon their Sport, will do it thus: They carry three or four Rods, and have as many Lines, and then fixing the Rod into the Ground, as close to the Water as can mount the Top of it, so that the Line may hang perpendicular from the Top of the Rod to the Bottom of the Water, and be drawn so strait up, that the Bait may just touch the Ground, or within two Inches at most; then on the Top of each Rod they fasten a little Bell, which will not fail to give Notice when a Fish bites, and then the Angler runs to

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the Rod that rung for him, and manages as he sees cause; and as they generally know the Ground well where they fish, and often bait the Hole, they have sometimes very good Sport, tho' in my Opinion they purchase it very dear.

3. Another sort of Night fishing, is laying Hooks, which they therefore call Night Hooks; yet this is not properly Night fishing, because the Angler does not attend them in the Night; but the Hooks are baited and fixt in the Day, suppose it be in the Evening before, and he goes the next Morning to see what Execution is done. The manner for this is various, as the place you cast them into requires.

1. Some take a long Line, long enough to reach cross the River or Pond in which they intend to fish, and tying short Lines to it at about three Foot distance, with a baited Hook at the End of each of the short Lines, then tye a Stone to one End of the long Line, and a sharp Stake to the other, stick the sharp Stake in the hither Bank, and throw the Stone with the Line tyed to it, quite cross the River, and so let it lie all Night; the short Lines are tyed to the long one, at about three Foot distance,

distance, and so laid, as to hang out all from the main Line down the Stream. This indeed is a way which seldom fails to take some Fish, and that a great deal, but it is not esteem'd among the fairest Methods of Sport.

2. The other way is with shorter Lines and only one or two Hooks to a Line; but then there must be a small Stake to each Line; so the Stakes are fixt in the Bank, all along the River Side, and the Lines thrown out into the Water as far as they will reach, having every one a small Plummet of Lead to sink them with. By the first Method, they take Eels, Chub, large Pikes, and large Trout also, and sometimes, but rarely, a well grown Carp; by the latter Method, seldom any thing but Eels, but those are of the largest Size. The great Lob Worm is esteem'd the best Bait for this kind of Sport.

3. The last Method of laying Lines, is by throwing a Piece of sunk Wood, that is, a Water soak'd Block that will sink, I say by throwing this into a deep Hole or Pit in the River, with a small Buoy to it, so that you may know how to find it again, and round this Block fasten a great many short Lines, with Hooks baited as before; this must be so cast into the Water,



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ter, that the Lines may lie every way, and at a distance from one another, which may easily be done, by having the Lines of differing Lengths; only it is to be observ'd, that this must be done always by the help of a Boat; so when the Block is let gently down into the Water, you cast the Lines out every way from you, having Plummets to sink them gradually in the Water, and if they are dexterously cast, they will not tangle one with another.

There is another way of fishing, and that is with a Spear, and with this sometimes they take the best and largest Fish, especially Eels and Trout, and therefore it is call'd, a *Trout Spear*, or an *Eel Spear*; the Eels are indeed spear'd by guess, and therefore that Work may be done by Night as well as by Day; but 'tis not worth while to spear for a Trout unless you see him, because his Holds are generally under some shelvy Ground, or among Piles, and under Planks, and among the Roots of Trees, where the Spear cannot come in a strait Line, so that you cannot strike him: But if you see the Trout or Pike soaring and sunning himself, then you may spear him securely.

There is yet another way of fishing, which is by haltering or snaring the Fish;  
and

and this is nothing more or less, but hanging a Noose of Horse Hair to the End of a Line or Packthread, which when a Fish lies sunning it self on or near the Surface of the Water, 'tis easy to lowre the Noose so gradually, as to bring it over the Fishes Head, and then with one strong Jerk, he is pull'd out of the Water at once. The Fish that are thus taken, are chiefly Pike, Tench, Trout, and Chub, but if they are large Fish, the Tackle must be very strong, or it will not hold them.

But all these are esteem'd unfair Ways, and are too much below the true Sportsman to stoop to, and therefore are indeed only to be mentioned here, not directed to any more than shooting the Fish with a Gun, which is practis'd by some, on the Occasion of the Fish lying on the Surface of the Water in hot Weather.

Of the several Ways of Angling, such as Trouling, Dibbing, and plain Angling, I have spoken largely to them under their proper Heads, namely, of the several Fish which are so taken; there is yet one way of fishing which we call Bobbing, which is by Worms hung on a long Thread, and doubled up together; as this is only used for the catching of Eels,

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so I have spoken to it in speaking of the Eel, in its proper Chapter.

*Of Baits for the taking Fish by Hook and Line.*

It remains that I should say something of the several Things made use of to bait the Anglers Hook, when he intends to bring the Fish to his Hand. ART has been luxuriant in finding out an abundant Variety of Dainties to tempt the poor Fish to swallow the fatal Hook: As the Apothecary conceals the nauseous Drugs under the Cover of Leaf Gold, and mixes Sweets and Perfumes with the bitter Draughts he gives, in order to deceive the Palate and Taste of his Patient, so the Angler rumages his Fancy, to find out something agreeable, something tempting to the Palate of the Fish, under Cover of which, they swallow Death, and are betray'd into the Hands of their mortal Enemy the Angler, who by that Deceit, gets a sure Hold of them, and is certain to destroy them.

The Angler was perplex'd with the innumerable Number of those Baits; not an Insect to be nam'd, but was brought into their Preparations, either simple, or compounded; every Worm, every Fly,  
was

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was either made use of as natural, or imitated as artificial, for this Work; and the List is too long and impertinent to trouble the Reader with, much less was it reasonable to trouble the Artist with them. The Fly we use for fishing, is called in general, a Dub Fly, and it is pretended by some, that there are several Sorts for every Month in the Year, and such were made on purpose. Take some of their Names in the following List, *viz.*

The Palmer Fly,	White Gnat,
Yellow Palmer,	Violet Fly,
Little red brown,	Horse-flesh Fly,
Early bright brown,	Green Drake,
Dark brown,	Grey Drake,
Latter bright brown,	Stone Fly,
Great Hackle,	Black <i>May</i> Fly,
Silver Hackle,	Little yellow <i>May</i> Fly,
Gold Hackle,	Chamlet Fly,
Little Dun,	Turkey Fly,
Great Dun,	Black Fly,
Blew Dun,	Cowlady Fly,
Whitish Dun,	Cow Dung Fly,
Whirling Dun,	Peacock Fly,
Yellow Dun,	Owl Fly,
Thorn Tree Fly,	Barm Fly,
Brown Gnat,	Meat Fly,
Little black Gnat,	Little Meat Fly,

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Ant Fly,	Late Badger Fly,
Green Grasshopper,	Camel brown Fly,
Dun Grasshopper,	Thorn Fly,
Brown Grasshopper,	Knop Fly,
Badger Fly,	Fern bud Fly,
Orange Fly,	Grey midge Fly,
Wasp Fly,	Black midge Fly,
Shell Fly,	Purple Fly,
Late Ant Fly,	Sand Fly,
Fern Fly,	Mackrel Fly,
Harry long Legs Fly,	Hoarth Fly,

*N. B.* As all these are real and natural Flies, so they are all to be imitated by Art, and artificial Flies are made answerable to them all, if the Angler is curious enough to vex himself with the Throng of them.

But Experience has taught us to know, that three or four Sorts of artificial Flies, and which he may buy in every Shop at *Crooked Lane*, will supply him for the whole Season of fishing, and abundantly satisfy him, without farther tempting his Curiosity.

It is much the same in Worms and other Baits, the pretended Instructors, of the angling Gentry, have only reckon'd up all the



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the Insects and creeping Things they can find, or read of in the World, and have christen'd them by as many hard Names as they can think of, to make the preparing Baits for the Hook seem a matter of great Difficulty and Art; whereas in Reality, the common red Worm found among fine Mould, or thoroughly rotten Dung, and properly call'd, the *Earth Worm*, is the most universal Bait, and is hardly refused by any Fish whatever, except the larger and more ravenous kind, such as a Pike, Trout, or Salmon: But that I may leave the young Learner fully inform'd, I shall make up a List of Worms for him, as I did of Flies, and leave him to try as many of them as he pleases: Take them then under their several Names given them by the Anglers, *viz.*

Worms bred in the Earth, or in Dung-Hills, such as the

Dew Worm,	Tag Tail,
Red Worm,	Earth Bob,
Garden Worm,	White Bait,
Lob Worm,	Cow Bob, or Clap
Brandling,	Bait,
Guilt Tail,	Cadis, or Cod Bait.
Marsh or Meadow	
Worm,	

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Worms bred on Herbs, Plants and Trees,  
such as the

Palmer Worm,	Cabbage Worm,
Canker Worm,	Grub Worm,
Wool Bed,	Crab Tree Worm,
Caterpillar,	Bark Worm,
Oak Worm,	Flag Worm.

Gentles or Maggots,  
bred in Flesh or  
in Cheese,

Snail,  
Grashopper,  
Cricket,  
Water Lowse, or  
Creeper,  
Meal Worm.

*Cum multis aliis, &c.*

Any, or all of these, are Baits very proper to be us'd, and most of the kinds of fresh River Fish will bite at them all. The Artists tell us of most of the Worms found upon Plants and Trees, that they are not in Season except in such and such Months, namely, in the Summer; they might as well have said, they were never out of Season but when they could not be had; for every one knows, that the Caterpillar,  
Cabbage

Cabbage Worm, Wool Bed, &c. are not to be had in the Winter, so they may well say, they are out of Season, because they cannot be found; the like may be said of the Oak Worm, the Grasshopper, the Cricket, and the like. On the other hand they say, that the Earth Bob, or Grub, is to be used all the Year round, that is to say, because it may be found all the Year.

It cannot be denied, but that some Baits may be more agreeable to the Fish than others, and that in Summer time the Summer Product is most agreeable: But this is a Curiosity that lies in a little Compass; for 'tis certain, that the common *Red Worm*, and *Meadow Worm*, the *Grub* or Earth Bob, the *Cadis* or Cod Bait, and the *Gentles* or Maggots, are Baits always in use, always to be had, and are as good for angling for all Sorts of River Fish, as any that can be named. In the Summer, if you have a mind to try them with Variety, you may take any of the ordinary Worms or Vermine you can find, such as are named above, and fish, *as we may say*, a little with them; but the solid substantial Baits which you have to depend upon, are the ordinary Worms, of which I named four Sorts or five, and they include all the rest, for most of those differing

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differing Sorts which they call by so many Names, are but the same Creature. For Example,

The *Cod Bait*, *Cad Bait*, *Cafe Worm*, *Straw Worm*, *Ruffcoat*, *Cadis*, are all the same Worm, and is in common call'd, *Cadis*; it is found in or near the Water, hanging or sticking to old Piles, Roots, and Stumps, enclosed in a little Husk of a *Water Reed*, Stick, or Rush, or Straw, or under Stones and hollow Places, in the Bottom of gravelly, clear Streams, at Mill Tails, and the like.

The *Bob*, *Earth Bob*, *White Worm*, *White Bait*, *Grub*, these are all the same, and are neither more or less than a common Earth Grub, which are found in great Numbers, and without fail, in following the Plough, or the Spade, when they break or dig up any fresh Ground that has lain long untill'd, especially in light Earth; for a stiff strong Clay, is too hard for them, they cannot get into it. These are a very good Bait indeed, and next to the Red Worm, the best that can be used for all kinds of River Fish, from the Salmon it self, to the Roach and Dace; 'tis too big for a Gudgeon, and the Pearch does not choose it, but for all the rest, 'tis out of question, good.

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The Dew Worm, Garden Worm, Twatchel, Brandling, Gilt Tail, Red Worm, these are all one kind, with the least difference imaginable, and are all included in the one Word, Earth Worm; they are always found in old Dung Hills, in fine Mould, in Gardens, and Pasture Grounds; and these are the universal Bait for all Sorts of River and Pond Fish, none will refuse them; so that the Angler need not amuse himself any longer about hard Names, but seek for this Worm under any Dung Hill or Heap of Mould which has lain any time, and he is sure of them almost any where; I think his Sport then need not be made difficult, when it is easy, which it is my Opinion these Pretenders to Art chiefly aim at.

There are besides these, some Methods of a differing kind, to bring the Fish to your Hand, and these are not improper to be spoken of, because 'tis a useful Piece of Art for the forwarding the Sport, and is besides that, a very fair Practise; and this we call Ground Bait.

The former Baits are all plac'd upon the Hook, in order to take the Fish by Surprise, when they come to it; but this is to bring the Fish together to a place,  
that



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that so they may be the more easily *come at*, to cast the Hook among them.

For baiting the Ground, your best time is to mark the place where you purpose to fish, and go the Evening before, but not till after Sun-set, and cast in your Bait, let it be thrown in so thick, that you may be assur'd it does not separate so effectually, as to drive away by the Stream, as it will do, especially if the Current be any thing strong; but if it be cast in thick, and in good Quantity, its own Weight sinks it to the Bottom, and there it lies. The Materials are divers, but more diversified, as I said above of other Baits, than need requires, by a great deal: Take however, the Detail of them as follows;

1. Boil'd Corn of any sort, that is in short, what when you give it to a Horse, you call a Marsh or Mash; and this is made just as you make it for a Horse, only that you pour off the Liquid, and use only the solid part; you may make it of ground Malt, or of Ale Grains, or of scalded Bran, or if you please, of Barley, but the Malt is better.

Blood.

2. Blood. This is a stronger Food, but not always more tempting to the Fish: When you use Blood, let it be Sheeps or Bullocks Blood, and warming it, steep Bran in it, because the Blood congealing afterwards, the Bran cakes into Lumps and Knots, and is so much the better for the Bait, because it will not separate so easily as Grains will, but sinks directly to the Bottom.

These are the principal Ingredients in Ground Baiting, or feeding the Fish, after which, you very seldom fail of having good Sport. Some throw in Lumps of clotted or dried Blood, chopped into small bits, but I think it does not answer; some chop Worms into small Pieces, others the Entrails of Fowls, Bullocks Livers, and the like; others chew Cheese and cast into the Rivers in small Bits, but that is but in small Quantities.

If upon thus baiting the Ground two or three times, you find no Sport when you come to angle, you may conclude, that a Pike has supplanted you; that is to say, that an Enemy has taken Possession of the Post you intended to be at, and that he lies there devouring your Bait, and

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and frights away all your Friends for whom you made the Feast ; and your Business is, presently to change your Tackle, and arm your self for a Pike, and 'tis Odds but you take him, and when he is gone renew your Bait the same Evening, you will find the next Day, you will not fail of good Sport.

Certain it is, that this Method of Ground Baiting draws the Fish in great Crowds to the place where you lay it, and that is all that is expected ; for then to take them, the Angler goes to work with his Hook, in which I hope he has Directions to his Satisfaction.

F I N I S.

